HISTORY OF KENSINGTON N. H.

REV. ROLAND D. SAWYER

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THE HISTORY

OF

KENSINGTON
NEW HAMPSHIRE

1663 to 1945
(282 Years)

With a Family and Homestead Register
of the Pioneer Families, Early Settlers and
Permanent Citizens of the Town

Written by
REV. ROLAND D. SAWYER
Born in Kensington
January 8, 1874

The Record of near three hundred years
This Book reclaims,
And puts in print, what else would be
Forgotten names.

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Roland D. Sawyer

PREFACE

"It is wise to recur to the sentiments and character of those from whom we have descended. The man careless about his ancestry will be equally so about his posterity, even regardless of himself. The man who does not feel himself a link in the great chain to transmit life and being, intellectual and moral existence, from ancestry to posterity, does not justly appreciate the relations which belong to him." — DANIEL WEBSTER.

"An authentic local history is a work of great importance; it not only gives us its great lessons of the events of yesterday, but it strengthens local attachment and promotes the love for kindred and home." — CHARLES MARSEILLES of EXETER.

"There is no history that comes so close to the common heart as local history . . . it depicts the life and energies of the humble citizen . . . he who would know the price of American life and Liberty must study the life and times of his own American Ancestry." —BOSTON TRANSCRIPT.

"In the pages of a town history are found lessons of experience, of blessed common-sense of the past, as men and women shaped their lives to meet the exigencies of their day. There we see the fortitude and courage of men of humble sphere; their unwearied diligence to promote religion, morals, education; their patient submission to present evils in the hope of a brighter day, and their provident care of a rising generation and posterity." — CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

The above quoted words of wise and serious-minded men are quite sufficient justification for the time and labor I have given to writing this History of my native town, and for the expense of having the same published; but beyond that, the work I have done has brought me great reward.

As one grows older in life he finds no spot on earth so sweet and dear to him as that part of the sun-warmed earth which saw his birth and early years, and if his fortune were to be born and grow up in a small town in which his ancestors had lived, loved and labored, it is all the more so.

Again, what a blessed relief it has been to be living again with, and writing about, those hardy, honest men and women of early Kensington, who were with their fellow New England groups, hammering into shape the great institutions of Democracy which European and Asiatic Militarism and Commercial Greed and Social Caste have brought to the brink of ruin.

Since 1931 I have been a very thoughtful follower of world events. I have seen Stimson in 1931 protest against Japan when it started, Pilsudski in 1933 urge England and France to join with Poland and overthrow Hitler and re-establish the German Republic, and Stalin and Litvinoff in 1936 urge collective action against Germany, and I have seen Hoover join England against Stimson, seen England and France unite against Pilsudski and Stalin and Litvinoff.

I have seen Stanley Baldwin, Ramsey McDonald, Neville Chamberlain, stupid, timid, time-serving politicians, resist the appeals of the far-seeing men in their countries and refuse to curb Hitler year after year for fear the Tory party would lose political power.

I saw British Tory and French stupidity and timidity sit by and shut their eyes while Hitler and Mussolini sent up trial balloons in Ethiopia and Spain.

Even after the way was so clear that the wayfaring man, though a fool, could not err, I saw the Roosevelt and Churchill administrations sending oil, rubber, scrap iron and material for munitions to Japan, and allowing Japan to take Indo-China and Thailand that they might have an advantageous place from which to strike both Britain and America when ready.

I saw Roosevelt, our president for six years, while war clouds were gathering in Europe and Asia, and yet his administrations had not a shred of foreign policy, pursuing the usual opportunism of the politician. And then came all the destruction, all the crime, brutality, beastiality, that the fiendish purposes of Hitler, the Japanese inner circle, Mussolini and Franco, supported by the insane and cruel peoples of Germany, Japan, Italy and Spain, could unloose upon the world.

And as I read of the mass murder and destruction, the letting loose of all the hellishness that is in the meanest of human beings, it would have been overpowering in its depression had not I been at work day after day with those good and true men and women who were working to get their living, raise another generation, and build up a new life here in America, away from Europe and Asia with their thousands of years of war and oppression.

To have this interesting work, and thus to get away from the slaughter and brutality of Germany, Spain, Japan and Italy, has been verily a blessing to me.

And again, no one can labor on these records of the past, practically live again with his pioneering ancestors, but he feels his own courage grow strong, and if he be a thinking person, he feels added strength to his Christian faith and religious gratitude. Those settlers of Kensington who came here and built first of all a House in which to Worship

God and meet to settle their civic problems, were men of Faith in Jesus and Gratitude to God. How well they attended to their duties to establish the religion of Christianity and how grateful they were to God for their meagre blessings, the records well attest; and to study those records aids one's loyalty to Christian Faith and makes deeper his feelings of Gratitude to God.

William Allen White, one of the richer American spirits of our day, in his Autobiography, speaks with great feelings of honor for his pioneering ancestors, who like Abraham in Ur of the Chaldees, took their ox-carts, spinning wheels, axes, forges and guns and their Bibles, and moved West in their covered wagons to blaze a new civilization.

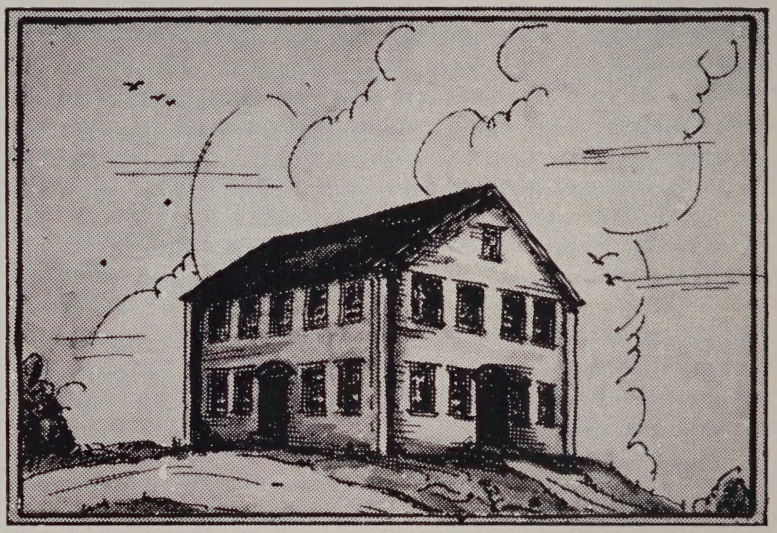
Historically the foundation of those pioneers, to whom White pays his tribute, was laid in these little New England towns like Kensington. Our Kensington Pioneers, like Abraham and Moses and the Hebrew Pilgrims, moved out of Hampton toward the West, to the land of the Hittite and Jebusite. They faced a hardship of life that took from every man and his wife such courage and hardihood as we in this soft and effeminate generation know nothing about. And no early towns in New England ever suffered such sickness and sorrow as came to Kensington, Kingston and Hampton Falls in the 30 years following 1735, when the terrible scourge of Diphtheria broke upon a people entirely ignorant of any germ theory and utterly unable to cope with it in any way, and in that 30 years, out of a total population of around 4500, 800 children and 100 adults died, one in every five.

As one who has come to know the character, ability and temper of the pioneers, settlers and citizens of Kensington over the space of the near 300 years that white men have been here, I am happy to be able to bear for them the same tribute that Ralph Waldo Emerson paid to Concord, Massachusetts in 1833. Emerson's words I quote as my own tribute to my native town: —

> "After my opportunities of access to tradition and family history in this town, I firmly believe it to have been the dwelling-place in all times, since it was planted, of pious and excellent people, who walked meekly the common life, who served God and man, and who never lost their hope of immortality."

ROLAND D. SAWYER.

Kensington, Oct. 7, 1945.



KENSINGTON SECOND COLONIAL MEETING HOUSE
THE ORIGINAL FROM WHICH "ROCKY HILL MEETING HOUSE" IN SALISBURY WAS BUILT

The history of Kensington's two Colonial Meeting Houses is told on pages 155-162.

The second Meeting House, picture above, was built in 1770-1771, and the carpenters went to North Hampton and took measurements for it, and the plan, from the Meeting House there built in 1761.

Later the carpenters in 1784, came from Salisbury and took the plan and measurements for the present "Rocky Hill" edifice from this, so when one goes now to that stately building, he may see what this one was like.

We are indebted to Mrs. Elinor C. Weare, of my parish in Ware, Mass., for redrawing the above from Mr. Rand's small drawing in 1823.

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The History of Kensington

Introduction

"That which we have heard and come to know, and our fathers have told us, we will not hide from our children, that they may show them to generations to come, the wonderful works of the Eternal, so that our children and children's children, may set their hope in God, and not forget His works but keep His commandments."

Psalm 78:1-7.

In 1850, Elizabeth Osgood wrote for the Ladies Sewing Circle, meeting with the wife of Reverend Mr. Lincoln in the old Potter House, a sketch of the early history of Kensington. Having been born and ever lived in the old parsonage of Mr. Fogg she had much tradition and records for her work, and we only regret she did not write at greater length.

Asa Warren Brown between 1850 and 1855 spent his summer vacations studying the genealogies of the families in town and in writing the same carefully down.

In 1882, the late Rev. George Osgood wrote for Hurd's History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, a Sketch of Kensington History.

Between 1895 and 1940, the late George Osgood, second, nephew of Rev. George Osgood, worked with his uncle, with Asa Warren Brown, and on his own account in assembling material for a History of the town.

In my vacations of 1918 and 1919 I spent my time reading the town records and collecting tradition from which I wrote a series of articles that appeared in THE EXETER NEWS-LETTER between November, 1918 and December, 1921.

When the town celebrated the 200th anniversary of its incorporation in 1937, Mr. Osgood and I set to work in assembling our mutual material, he having copied much of Mr. Brown's material beside his original work, and when he died in 1941 he turned all his material over to me.

In an Appendix I have noted all available material for a History of the town, but I wish here to also mention the little brochure printed in 1909, under the title of SKETCHES AND REMINISCENCES OF KENSINGTON.

That booklet of 38 pages was published by a Committee, each of whom made his and her original contribution.

The Committee and Contributors were: Rosa A. Akerman, Ida M. Mace, Mary Hilliard Prescott, Sarah Abbie Green, Lizzie E. Tuck, Ellen P. Walton, Weare N. Shaw, James W. W. Brown, Rev. Roland D. Sawyer.

All save Miss Green and the writer have passed from this life to the next.

In sorting the material and copying the records of Mr. Osgood, the writer is indebted greatly to the kindly interest in the town and its history of Miss Josephine Fitts Prescott of Portsmouth, who with her sister, Miss Elizabeth Prescott, and her brother, Charles Prescott, for many years spent their summers at "Fitts Cottage" on the South Road.

All that material was made in three copies, one of which is in the Kensington Library, and one of which is in the Library of the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, N. H. It runs to about three times the length of this published history.

When I was a lad of 10 and began to work for the older farmers dropping corn and potatoes and dragging the loafer rake, I listened eagerly to their stories of old days in town. As I grew older they talked directly to me, related tales of older times while we worked, and I would hear the same at the stores as they gathered for the evening leisure. In those days, 1885 to 1895, the town was still the town of the families that settled here. Tradition thus related had been passed down from generation to generation, and such tradition has been the key to unlock the secrets held by the bare records of town events. Such tradition was confirmed and added-to in my many talks with Mr. Osgood between 1937 and 1940; thus: —

What we from sacred records
  Of ancient times have known,
And our elders' careful memory
  To us has handed down —

We would tell them to our sons
  That they may tell to theirs,
And generations yet unborn
  May tell them to their heirs.

Name, Area, Boundaries

Kensington took its name from the old Kensington suburb of London. Just why it was thus named we do not know, evidently some individual or group was acquainted with the old suburb before they left their mother-land and desired the name. It was well chosen and got the new parish off to a good start.

Several old London writers have pictured for us the tranquil and beautiful section of London just beyond the reach of the roar of the paved streets of the city. Perhaps the best of such descriptions is that

of Anne Thackeray Richie in *"Old Kensington."* After reading that essay every native or resident of our town will rejoice that someone picked the name of "Kensington" for our town. I quote a passage: —

> "In old Kensington the children of my day knocked their noses against the old sun-dial, while their elders looked on streets golden with the yellow sunset that blazed beyond our cabbage fields. . . . The high brown walls of Kensington Gardens reach even to the Palace gate; elms spread their shade, the birds chirrup, the children play . . . . the lanes that lead from the high-road from London are white with blossom, the old Queen Anne buildings look down. . . . We are far enough from the city to listen to the perpetual cawing of the crows, the corners are tranquil, silent, ivy-wreathed nooks, the quaint old church has the bell that spells off the passing hours. Such beauty is here that we deeply regret the shabby stream of progress that will rise and engulf one relic after another and carry off these landmarks and memories."

Such was the English spot for which our town was named.

7436 acres is the area of the town, all land save the 3 acres of Muddy Pond, our one body of water.

Buzzell's Hill, at extreme northwest of the town, is 265 feet above the sea, Red Oak Ridge (later Moulton's Ridge) is 287 feet, Stumpfield 200 feet, Clifford Ridge (later Martin's Ridge) is 280 feet, while Hog Hill is 285 feet and Indian Ground Hill in this town and South Hampton reaches 300 feet just beyond South Hampton line.

When set off, Kensington was bounded on the North by Exeter and the East by Hampton Falls, South by Salisbury (now South Hampton), and West by Kingston (now East Kingston).

Muddy Pond

Kensington has but one body of water, the enclosed Muddy Pond, a small pond lying between South Road and Connor's Hill. It gets its name because while the pond contains only a dozen feet of clear water there is beneath it from twenty to thirty feet of thin black mud, evidently the accumulation of rotting leaves and broken debris of many centuries. Several springs provide the water which overflows to become a brook which in the early days of the town was the site of a beaver dam and is known as "Beaver Dam Brook."

The great antiquity of the pond is seen by the fact that around 1915 when Hugo Gluck, a German professor, was making investigations for the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, in the matter of prehistoric water plants, he found on Beaver Dam Brook which flows out of Muddy Pond a rare form of prehistoric plant which so far as he knew could only be found in two other places in North America.

Muddy Pond is slowly growing smaller, roots of trees interlocking and providing foundation for new soil.

In the center of the town there was evidently once another Muddy Pond but now entirely grown over with the exception of one or two openings and a large spring. This spot was grown over before the white men came, for it was burned yearly by the Indians and was thus a grassy swamp called by the settlers " Hog-Pen Meadow."

The Ground to be Covered

The ground to be covered in our study starts at the March Meeting of the Mother-Town of Hampton in 1663, when the town voted the first title to any part of Kensington territory to a white man, and ends in the spring of 1946, when the final pages were sent to the printer.

The first settler was here in 1670 but general settlement could not take place till 1702 and after, when the First West Division divided some 3500 of Kensington's 7436 acres.

Over 60 families had established homes here in 1732, and in 1737 the town was set-off as a separate Parish, and in December, 1761 was given full town-rights and at the March Meeting 1762 chose its first representative to the General Assembly at Exeter.

Our study covers this 282 years of time and states the historic facts of the salient and important and interesting events and episodes of the period as the same can be gathered from the various sources of information we have been able to find.

And its Homestead section notes the homes in which our people have lived; 87 homes on the South Road, 70 on the Middle Road, 110 on the North Road.

The author's life is so closely bound up with his native town that he has ventured to add a personal chapter, " His own chapter ", as he has called it.

Kensington

CHAPTER 1

THE TOWN — TOPOGRAPHY — INDIAN PREPARATION FOR THE WHITE PEOPLE — THE ENGLISH MOVEMENTS FOR SETTLEMENT — HAMPTON, THE MOTHER-TOWN — HAMPTON FALLS, THE SISTER PARISH

The Town

Kensington is in Rockingham County in New Hampshire and is by direct line only five miles from the Atlantic Ocean, and one corner is only a mile or so from the North-East corner of Massachusetts at the line between Amesbury, Mass. and South Hampton, N. H., a narrow strip of the latter town separating it from the Massachusetts line. Thus the town is bounded on the south by this narrow strip of South Hampton; on its west by East Kingston, on its east by Hampton Falls, on its north by Exeter, the home of Phillips Exeter Academy. Mr. Phillips contemplated putting the Academy in Kensington, either on Hog-Pen Plain or Shaw's Hill, but the conservative farmers were set against a bunch of boys being located here to despoil their orchards and generally disturb the peace as it was feared a bunch of boys would. Thus Kensington lost its chance to be a world-wide noted educational center.

Its greatest population was reached just before the Revolution, 820; the low mark was reached around 1910 when less than 400 lived within its borders. It is one of the daughter towns of Hampton, which town was one of the four original little republics that made up New Hampshire.

Topography

Geological scientists have pretty well established their theory that the North-Eastern part of North America was once covered by an immense ice-sheet, several thousand feet deep in New Hampshire, for it covered Mt. Washington. This ice-sheet extended south as far as a line drawn from below New York City across to Montana. It thawed at the South, and its immense weight, slowly moving, rolling, grinding in a general direction from North-West to South-East, dislodged great blocks of solid rock, pushed them hundreds of miles from their base, ground them into boulders, and as the ice melted dumped them with great deposits of gravel and sand, in such manner, as to often leave ridges side by side with plowed-out valleys.

Kensington was particularly a spot where the grinding ice-flow did marvelous work, and fitted up the terrain for the purposes of the settler and his form of life. Three long ridges, varying in their height, cross the town, North-West to South-East, and between these are corresponding valleys. These ridges were named by the early settlers as Horse-Hill Ridge, Stumpfield Ridge, Red Oak Ridge.

These physical features not only give Kensington a most beautiful natural scenery, but they adapted the town well for settlement by the colonists. Land was for the most part covered with forests of pine and oak. A spot cleared for a home and planting must be on a hilltop or elevated ground, where rain would run off and it would soon dry out, so that fall and winter rye, buck-wheat, wheat and barley, beans, turnips and corn could be planted. Thus in all old towns homes were built on hills and the roads ran by the houses, so in every old town the roads run over the hills.

Settlement along the ridges gave the town three roads crossing from Kingston, the New Plantation, to Hampton, the Old Plantation. These soon became the South Road, the Middle Road, the North Road. And from the first town meeting down, selectmen were elected, one from each road, and schools planted to accommodate the children on each of the three roads.

Indian Preparation for the White People

What is now Hampton and Seabrook with abundant and splendid stock of clams and fish was naturally the year-round dwelling spot of the Indians, called Winnicunnet. It was also the summer wigwam site for clans that came down from the uplands, and the early settlers found great piles of clam shells, where the squaws had dug and dried the clams for winter.

Twelve miles away was Great Pond, on the shores of which the Indians had a sizable cleared spot. In 1663 Hampton urged its young people to take up homes at this Pond and Plain section, but it was not till 1694 that a "new Plantation" was settled there by the name of "King's Town," now Kingston.

The Indians had two other cleared places, one at Hog-Pen and one at Grassy Swamp. Hog-Pen "playne and meadow" was the section that runs from Town Hall Hill south for over a half mile, and the meadow was what we now call "The Bishop," then a meadow. Grassy Swamp was the large tract of 500 acres we now call "The Great Meadows."

These meadows existed because the Indians each fall burned them over in their game-hunt, which killed willows and alders and kept the

meadows clear. On the banks of Hog-Pen Meadow and Grassy Swamp were also wigwam sites for the Indians. That at Hog-Pen was where the recent addition to the "lower graveyard" was laid out, near the large and never failing spring. That at Grassy Swamp was at the right of the present road on land now owned by Dr. Leon Jacobs and near another large spring.

The Indians had three well-trodden trails between Hampton and Kingston: one by New-Found and Horse Hills; one by Hog-Pen and Stumpfield; and one extending Drinkwater Road over the old Tilton Road by their "site" on the edge of Grassy Swamp.

The Indian settlements were considerable till they were given smallpox by John Smith's sailors in 1615 and 1616, and probably an Indian Civilization in Southern New Hampshire of 15,000 was reduced to less than 2000.

There were none left alive to claim such spots as Winnicunnet, Hog-Pen, Grassy Swamp, Great Pond, and all the white people had to do was to just move on and take possession.

The English Movements for Settlement

June 24, 1497, thirteen months before Columbus discovered South America, John Cabot in the service of King Henry VII discovered North America and later he and his son Sebastian came here again. However, both Henry VII and Henry VIII, who followed him, were Catholics and accepted the Pope's dictum which had given America to Spain. Queen Elizabeth sent Martin Frobisher in 1576 and again in 1577 and 1578 to colonize North America, but the attempt was made too far North at Greenland and failed. Sir Francis Drake, Thomas Cavendish, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and his brother Richard made various trips to North America with attempts to colonize.

1606 King James issued the first Colonial Charter and out of it came the Jamestown Colony in Virginia in 1607.

1620 the hardy Pilgrims came to Plymouth and landed too late to be able to provide shelter necessary to withstand the rigors of New England weather and the winter that followed saw 51, exactly one-half of the original 102, dead and buried.

A few isolated colonies sprang up north of Plymouth in the years that followed: Tom Weston at Wessagusset; Thomas Morton at Marymount; Captain Wollaston at Quincy. Mason and Georges received a grant of the territory which is now New Hampshire and a trading and fishing post was established at Portsmouth and Dover in 1623 but Hampton was not touched.

The settlement of Hampton was to be a part of that colonizing movement of the Puritans which found its idea and plan in the mind of Rev. John White, pastor in Dorchester, England. White was a statesman as well as pastor and he laid out a plan for building a new society in North America and saw a Colony set up on Cape Ann in 1625 which next year was removed to Salem; here John Endicott came in 1628 and established strong rule over the bickering and quarreling factions, and renamed the settlement from Naumkeug to Salem, the Hebrew word for Peace. The next year, 1629, King Charles gave a Royal Charter to the Governor and company of Massachusetts Bay and six small ships with three hundred men, eighty women, twenty-eight children, one hundred and forty head of cattle, forty goats, arms, ammunition, cooking utensils, tools, and some food, set sail for the New World; this was the advance guard of thirty thousand hardy Puritans who were to settle the territory between Watertown and Hampton in the next decade. Winthrop and Dudley came in 1630 and until changing political conditions in England around 1640 placed a check upon Puritan emigration to New England the flow was steady. Northward along the coast settlement extended Lynn, Ipswich, Newbury, Salisbury, Exeter and Hampton.

Hampton, the Mother-Town

When the year 1632 closed near three thousand people were living in settlements along the Bay and they had with them at least one thousand head of cattle, two thousand goats, some sheep, and large flocks of swine. It was this year that Rev. Stephen Bachiler landed in Boston bringing with him his immediate family, his kin by the name of Sanborn, and a few loyal followers who had been members of his church in England.

Bachiler had a married daughter in Lynn. He went immediately there and within three days from the time he disembarked in Boston he had formed and set up the First Church in Lynn. He was seventy-one years of age, a man of great native force and energy, and as a pastor for a period already a lifetime, he had exercised unquestioned control over his people. A man of such force and self-will could hardly get along with Boston, where the dominant John Cotton and His Tyrannical Majestrates thrust down their iron will upon all within their reach. After a few months Bachiler gave up his ministry in Lynn and moved to Ipswich. Some years later he re-entered the ministry and we find him in Yarmouth on the Cape, but his heart was in the " North Shore " and when in 1637 the Newbury people had asked privilege of the General Court to settle at Winnicunnet, which was granted, but they did not

improve it, we find Bachiler back in Ipswich, and early in 1638, seeking permit from the General Court to go and establish settlement at Winnicunnet.

The permit was granted at the September session of the General Court with the provision that the proposed settlers " Should shortly enter upon and begin ye settlement." In October the hardy old pioneer with a group of his followers came along the coast and up the Hampton River to stake out their claims and settle Winnicunnet. The Indian name of the locality means " The pleasant spot by the pines." The Indians used it to designate that stretch of upland that lay between the great pines and the wind-blown salt meadows with clam flats, beaches, and rivers. Here for centuries the Indians had lazed away the warm days of summer, gorged themselves with fish and clams, while their squaws dug and dried clams for winter food. The abundance of shell and sea food appealed to the settlers and the 5000 acres of salt marsh, awaiting the sweep of their scythes, would provide food for herds of livestock.

Hampton Falls Our Sister Town

The 7436 acres that are now Kensington were originally the west part of Hampton Falls. The " Falls " people erected a Meeting House which was ready for use in 1709, and the " West " part (Drinkwater) erected a Meeting House ready for use in 1734.

Hampton Falls was incorporated a separate parish in May, 1718, and Kensington followed in April, 1737. Thus the town of Hampton Falls is our older sister.

By kin of the people, their social life and ideals, their joint support of institutions for their mutual benefit, the two towns have ever retained their close bond of sisterhood.

In religious life the fellowship of the towns has ever been especially close. Kensington and Hampton Falls Quakers made one meeting. In 1805 when the " Christian " sect was active, much of its membership was of Kensington people. In 1834 when the orthodox people of Hampton Falls moved to organize an evangelical Church (The Line Church) they invited Kensington to join. Unitarians of Hampton Falls and Kensington made one church from 1848 to 1865. One pastor, Mr. Lincoln, living here, and the other, Mr. Bridge, lived in Hampton Falls.

In the struggle for temperance, 1865 to 1895, the two Divisions of The Sons of Temperance worked side by side, and thus it has ever been in every movement to uplift and aid our mutual population.

CHAPTER 2

THE HAMPTON MOVEMENT WESTWARD — SETTLEMENT AT "YE FALLS" — KINGSTON — KENSINGTON — DIVISIONS OF LAND IN KENSINGTON TERRITORY AND OWNERSHIP OF THE SAME — READY FOR SETTLEMENT AFTER 1702 — INDIAN MENACE DELAYS

The Massachusetts General Court, under whose authority both Exeter and Hampton were settled, followed the policy of granting a territory to a group of settlers, and they in their Town Meetings to divide it as they wished. Hampton was granted in 1638 that vast section which is now not only Hampton, but North Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, East Kingston, Danville and a small part of Sandown.

The first generation settled only that tract near the coast between Little River and Taylor River, and they held rigid control of all land and were careful about granting others to settle among them.

Civilization takes its course westward and the town meeting of March 1663 took steps to urge settlement westward. Already venturesome men were living between "Ye Falls" and Taylor River, and territory westward was well known, and desirable spots were marked.

1663 Grants at Kensington

March 1663, Hampton granted a 200 acre farm at Hog-Pen Playne and Meadow to Rev. Seaborn Cotton, and offered lots of land at Great Pond in Kingston to settlers who would go there, and likewise laid out additional land in Hampton Falls. The grant to Rev. Cotton was the first grant to an individual white man of any part of Kensington territory. Other grants may have been given between that and 1668, but we find trace of only one, a farm laid out adjoining Hog-Pen farm to William Fuller. In the same period grants of the meadows at Exeter line of some 500 acres were made at Grassy Swamp (The Great Meadows).

1668-1670 Hog-Pen Farm Surveyed and Fuller Farm Occupied

Mr. Cotton made no attempt to have his gift made active till 1668, when the Town Meeting confirmed the act of 1663 and ordered the farm surveyed and laid out. The surveyors made their return in February, 1668, and at the March meeting, March 9, 1669, a record was entered in the Town Book, signed by the committee, viz: John Sanborn, Thomas Marston, Henry Roby.

May 4, 1671 Rev. Mr. Cotton sold his farm for 51 pounds to John Garland of Hampton, planter, and the deed states that the house of

John Fuller is built upon the dividing line between the Cotton Farm and the William Fuller Farm.

Garland sold half the farm in August, 1671 to John Philbrick and willed the other half to his two minor sons on November 15. He died soon after.

1675 Isaac Chase bought half the Philbrick holding, and 1679 Abraham Green bought Jacob Garland's share. John Philbrick sold his other half to his uncle, Thomas Philbrick, he having gone to Greenland instead of coming to Kensington. The farm thus divided into four tracts of 50 acres each was bought and sold by various parties, but was not settled upon till after 1714; at that time the farm was owned by Elihu Chase, son of Isaac, and John and Benjamin Green, and Edmund Johnson. John Green secured the share of Benjamin, and the farm was re-surveyed and divided between John Green, Edmund Johnson and Elihu Chase, and was settled by the Green, Johnson and Chase families between 1714 and 1730.

This re-survey was necessary because the return of the committee of 1669 and the deed given by Rev. Cotton in 1671 did not agree.

The survey laid out a meadow of 50 acres and upland at the southeast a half mile long and a half mile wide, while the Cotton deeds describe the farm as of an average width of 130 rods, with a length of 220 rods, and 30 acres of meadow 160 rods from the Fuller house.

Kensington Land Laid Out Between 1702 and 1709

Settlement west of Taylor River had grown so that Capt. Henry Dow in 1685 recorded in his diary that there were 496 souls on the Hampton side of the river and 212 souls on "Ye Falls side."

1694 the "New Plantation" at Kingston was settled. It included what is now Kingston and East Kingston, Danville and a small section of Sandown. The same year land at the North, now North Hampton, was laid out in farms.

The Kingston charter from William and Mary, through the Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, August 8, 1694 granted to James Prescott, Sr., Isaac Godfrey, Thomas Philbrick, Jr., Gersham Elkins, Samuel Calcott, Thomas Webster, Samuel Derborn, Wm. Godfrey, Jacob Garland, John Mason, Ebenezer Webster, Nathaniel Derborn, Benj. Sanborn, John Moulton, Daniel Moulton, Francis Touse and several other loving subjects, a large tract starting 7 miles from Hampton Meeting House and running 10 miles into the country, 4 miles wide. This charter confirmed and made legal the Hampton Town Meeting act and was necessary because New Hampshire was now a royal province and no longer part of Massachusetts.

The growth westward and the settlement at Kingston brought added pressure for a survey and laying out of all land between Kingston and Hampton; as most of Hampton Falls was already laid out, this meant Kensington land.

The only wealth was in the land, and for years the Hampton owners of the land in Kensington had successfully resisted having it surveyed and laid out, the entire territory, with the exception of the thousand acres at Grassy Swamp, Hog-Pen and Fuller farms, was common land owned by 156 share holders of Hampton.

A town meeting November 18, 1700 voted to lay out the land between Kingston and Hampton, and North Hampton and Salisbury. Nothing was done, and June 9, 1701 another town meeting voted to lay out lots southerly and easterly of Kingston and Exeter into half-shares, each person in Hampton who was born there and had reached 21 years of age, to be allowed one-half share.

This vote was carried out and the Committee reported December 26, 1702 that it had laid out 351 half shares of 10½ acres each. This was a total of 3685 acres, of which 275 half shares were in Kensington, as were one end of lots 275 to 312, so a total of over 3000 acres laid out was in Kensington. This was called "THE FIRST WEST DIVISION" and it made 312 Hampton men of 21 years of age and over land-owners in Kensington. (Hampton Town Book No. 2, page 169.)

February 2, 1708 Hampton voted to survey and lay out THE SECOND WEST DIVISION. Shares in this Division were not of uniform size. After reserving 80 rods inside the First West Division, a section one mile easterly and one mile southerly was laid out. (Hampton Town Book No. 2, page 250.)

January 17, 1714 Hampton voted THE THIRD WEST DIVISION; this took in all land left in Kensington and some undivided land in Hampton Falls, in fact all hitherto undivided land south of Taylor River. (Hampton Town Book No. 2, page 276.)

Thus by 1714 all Kensington land was divided.

Indian Wars Delayed Settlement of Kensington

We have seen John Fuller here in 1670, and Mr. Cotton found ready sale for his farm in 1671, James Prescott a few years earlier built at Applecrest on Drinkwater Road, and but for the King Philip's War of 1675, the town would have been much earlier settled.

In 1688 Andros provoked another war, called King William's War, which lasted 11 years, to 1699. In these years Exeter was three times attacked, Dover five times with 35 killed, over 20 were killed at Rye;

York, Kittery, Lamprey River and Haverhill all suffered. Portsmouth and Hampton alone escaped, but it was hardly a time when people would locate on a new settlement unless they went in a group, as did the hardy Kingston settlers in 1694.

The Andros war came to an end in 1699 and the March meeting of 1700 voted to lay-out Kensington land. Nothing was done and in March, 1701 a somewhat different arrangement was ordered and carried out. The Committee did not report till December 26, 1702, hence no one could have a clear title till 1703, and early that year another War broke out.

Queen Anne's War started in the spring of 1703. A French troop of 500 soldiers joined the Indians, divided into raiding parties of 30 to 75 and fell upon Maine settlements and killed and captured 130 people. In August of that same year Capt. Tom and 30 Indians attacked Hampton, plundered homes and killed Jonathan Green, Nicholas Bond, Thomas Lancaster, Widow Mussey and a son of William Hinckley. Hampton and Portsmouth held town meetings and raised a band of 400 soldiers and offered a bounty of 40 pounds for every Indian scalp. This prevented further raids and the next summer local soldiers with help sent from Boston had open engagements with the French and Indians and won and drove them back toward Canada. There was, however, constant fear of raids till 1713.

Sunday morning, August 6, 1706, Benjamin Fifield and a boy went out to catch his horse to go to meeting. Fifield was killed and the boy killed or taken away. This was only a half mile from Hampton Falls Hill. September, 1707 Henry Elkins was killed in Kingston and a man killed at Exeter. 1709 four men were seized at Pickpocket Mills in Exeter and William Moody was tortured, roasted alive and his flesh eaten. 1710 Col. Hilton was ambushed and killed with two of his men. In 1712 Kingston, Exeter and Dover were attacked.

Thus the years following the land Divisions in 1702, 1707 and 1709, were hardly years when young men and maidens would go out alone and make settlements. Peace came in 1713 and between 1714 and 1720 we find a steady flow of settlers to Kensington.

There were two later Indian Wars, Lovewell's War, 1722 to 1725; and the French and Indian Wars of 1745-1748, and 1754-1763; but there was no serious local menace in them. Only in 1724 was there any local attack; that year there was an attack on Kingston, but already settlement between Hampton and Kingston was too strong to be seriously menaced by any raiding party that could break through, and settlement of Kensington continued year by year.

CHAPTER 3

EARLY KENSINGTON THE WEST PART OF HAMPTON FALLS — TYPE OF MEN WHO CAME HERE — TYPE OF HOMES THEY BUILT — THEIR ECONOMIC STEPS — CUSTOMS AND IDEAS

"It is not with us as with men whom small things can discourage."
— Elder Brewster at Plymouth in 1621.

Kensington When Settled Had Become the West Part of the Falls

The 212 souls west of Taylor River in 1685 had grown to 400 in 1709, and December 3 of that year, as they faced winter's hardships to go to Hampton for Sunday worship, 56 men signed a petition which was presented to the Assembly at Portsmouth, asking for a parish this side Taylor River. Failing to get favorable action, 64 persons signed another petition which was presented May 3, 1710.

In Brown's HISTORY OF HAMPTON FALLS at pages 290-293 we see a list of the rate payers who lived in Hampton Falls. Favorable action finally came and December 9, 1711, 49 members of the Hampton Church who lived west of Taylor River were dismissed to form the Falls Church, and May 12, 1718 Hampton Falls was created a separate Parish entirely.

Thus when young men from Hampton came here to settle, they were really settling the western part of Hampton Falls for Kensington land went with "Ye Falls Parish."

The Type of Men Who Founded Kensington

His echoing axe the settler swung
Amid the forest's solitudes;
With steady blows he downward flung
The tall pine giants of the woods.

Rude his garb but strong his frame,
That stalwart youth, whose honest toil,
The untrained Nature overcame
And made it into fertile soil.

Amid the trees he cleared a spot,
Burned fallen logs and planted grain,
With faith and courage we know not
He worked 'neath sun and summer rain.

This bright new world for us he made,
And the giant woods and swampy lair,
Are pleasant fields of grassy glade,
Because the settler labored there.

The Puritan element that came from old England to New England between 1629 and 1650 were the best men and women of the land they left. They were men with iron in their blood, confidence in themselves and faith in their God. Such stock had been here for two generations, and sometimes three, and had learned all the frugality, industry, common-sense and self-reliance that such training could give, when their sons and daughters left parental home to build their own homes on the virgin soil of Kensington.

And Kensington got the pick of the young men of Hampton and Hampton Falls. The records show that following the land divisions of 1702, 1707 and 1709, there was much buying and selling of lots of land as laid out. Far-seeing fathers were aiding their sons to get a choice spot for a home, and it was the most reliant and ambitious of those sons who wanted to branch out for himself in the new township.

I find youth from 18 to 20 buying these lots, or their parents buying for them, and upon them they soon settled.

On the other hand the less substantial people, the less far-seeing and frugal, sold their shares. It's a sad commentary that Col. Peter Weare, who kept Tavern in Hampton Falls, became the largest land-owner in Kensington. Capt. Joseph Tilton bought from him for his sons John, Sherburne and Joseph, near 200 acres, which Col. Weare had picked up from various owners. Nathaniel Prescott, the Tucks and others, all bought additional land from Col. Weare.

Thus the original families who came to Kensington, were for the most part sons of far-seeing and frugal men, brought up in good homes, and young men with ambition.

Such young men were bound to make a success of the new parish settlement. Half of them could not sign their names, they made a mark, but there were few books, no papers, reading and writing was not a very necessary or entertaining thing, and they began work early and school privileges were scanty. To the honor of the Kensington parish it must be said that after a generation of Kensington life we see this disappearing. This was in part due to general increased appreciation of education, but it is more due to the fact that Kensington, having three distinct roads or sections, North, Middle and South, with a school for each, all the lads and misses got some education.

Kensington was founded on a fine type of families, it got away to a good start, and it maintained its standing. What is true of Kensington was also true of Hampton Falls. Thus we get from the sister parishes of Hampton Falls and Kensington, a larger per cent of capable and successful men around 1775 and 1850, than to be found in most of the towns of similar size during the same period. As settlers go, we may

say of Kensington and Hampton Falls between 1775 and 1850, "There were giants in those days."

Most of the original settlers in Kensington were young people, lads and misses who started out in life as man and wife at ages running from 18 to 25. When a young couple were to make such a start the elders and kin of the two families in the marrying would form a little party of workers and with their cattle, some food and their tools would come through the woods in Hampton Falls to the spot selected and would cut down the giant pines, use some for the necessary lumber and snake the others into great piles for burning. These men would work daytimes and sleep at night in the open around a roaring fire. Kensington had no log cabin days; the first houses built being of boards, feather-edged and nailed down considerably tight. These boards were sometimes hauled from the sawmill at Hampton Falls and at other times sawed out by two men. If sawed by two men, a saw pit was made either by a hole being dug in the ground or a staging erected. One man would stand on top of the log and the other beneath, and the saw with handle at either end would be laboriously drawn the length of a short log. By this process two men could saw about one hundred boards a day. The home erected was the one story, two room building with a dark loft overhead. One room had a floor, a bed for the parents while the children slept in the loft. The other room to avoid danger of fire generally had no floor but the roaring fireplace provided heat for the entire building.

Into this small home the young couple would move, the young man bringing his oxen and simple tools and the bride bringing her cow. For it was the custom for the father to start his son with the gift of a yoke of steers, and for the father of the bride to give his daughter a cow. This was all; with this modest home, their courage, the young couple started life. In the spring the young man burned piles of logs and on the cleared land planted his corn, beans, pumpkins, turnips, sowed his buck-wheat and rye; for from the land he must raise the most of the food that would carry him, his family, and his cattle through the long, cold winter months. From the wool from the backs of sheep the young wife and mother would knit stockings, underwear, and weave homespun cloth; in addition to this she must bear a child about once every twenty months. If they were prosperous or had kin of substance in a few years the little house would be replaced by the standard colonial two and one-half story home of ample proportions with fireplace in every room, and laid in such manner as to be adapted for two families so that the oldest son could marry, bring his wife home, live in one end of the house, help carry on the farm to the mutual advantage of

son and father. In a few instances, and especially after decent roads were established connecting Kensington with the Old Settlement, young people were started off in life with the original erecting of the two story house.

Steps Taken for Economic Betterment

The first thing the settlers did was to improve the old trails into decent roads. These went over the three ridges and by the homes on South Road, Middle Road, and North Road. They designated with names their great hills, New-Found Hill, Horse Hill, Hog Hill, Round Hill, Red Oak Ridge. And in 1760 we get Hoosac Hill. This hill was so named because David James who owned the pasture served as a soldier in the Indian Wars, and in 1759 marched over Hoosac Mountain in Western Massachusetts and when he reached his home named the hill and his pasture Hoosac Hill.

Few localities of the same size have so many springs of clear, bubbling water as are to be found in Kensington. Both on hilltops and in low land on many farms are to be found these springs of pure water. It was the existence of these springs that determined the site of several of the earliest homesteads. The Green family built their house near two of these springs; Obadiah Johnson built his house near a spring. So did Sherburn Tilton, so did the pioneer John Fuller, and so did many others. Various springs and the valley basins create several small brooks that sparkle in the sun on a summer day as they find their way to the larger brooks and thence to the sea. There are few towns that provide so beautiful and interesting scenery as Kensington provides for those who like to climb the hills, roam the fields, loiter by the roadsides, and look upon Nature's grandeur and beauty. On a clear day from one of its hills one can look away upon the glistening Atlantic or the smoky tops of small mountains in the distance, or in the night time can watch the twinkling light on the lighthouse at the Isles of Shoals.

While Kensington has no streams of water of considerable size, the springs that feed Muddy Pond start the flow which becomes Beaver Dam Brook and further down was harnessed to become the sawmills, grist mills and fulling mills of the Page and Pike families. And in the same way the spring where John Fuller built the first white man's house in Kensington started a stream that flowing through Hog-Pen Meadow was farther up dammed and made water power for the Shaw and Fellow's grist mills and sawmills. And near Kingston line other springs started their stream that was harnessed for power for Elisha Blake's sawmill.

Habits, Customs, Ideas, Which Early Kensington Shared With All Early New England Towns

Life was serious business with all New England settlers. To get a living was a struggle for the husband and wife in which the children shared at an early age. Boys and girls at six or seven years of age had their allotted part in the economy of life; at ten years of age they were almost little men and women; from sixteen to twenty they were getting ready for marriage and a home of their own.

How early in life this sense of responsibility and the ability to carry on was a settled matter, is seen by a statement of Sydney Perley, where he shows that vessels often left old Salem in which every officer and all the crew were still in their teens.

The young folks married early, had large families, worked hard, and faced many sorrows and hardships. There was much sickness, especially among the children, of whom only slightly over fifty per cent grew to manhood or womanhood. Colonial life was especially hard on women. Incessant child bearing, sickness of their children, and their hard work, caused over one-third of them to break down in early life. Over one-third of the men married twice and many of them three times. The gravestones in the old cemeteries bear mute testimony to the severe hardships thrust upon colonial womanhood.

The food of the pioneers was simple but healthful. Their dress was entirely home-made, and the preparation of it is now nearly a "Lost Art" in New England. Few indeed are the women of the present day who can, as did their great grandmothers, card flax and wool; spin, weave, and knit; they could knit suspenders with a stitch that would stretch like elastic, and probably Mrs. William Rowe was the last woman in our town to knit such suspenders, which she did for her son Harrison as long as she lived. Those women could inter-weave the wool from white and black sheep so as to make a peculiar homespun. The men likewise performed a hundred useful things which are now lost arts. The shoes were made up by a travelling shoe-maker who once or twice a year visited the homes and made up the leather which the people had themselves tanned in their pits.

The simplicity of the household equipment is noted by Washington Irving in his passage wherein he describes the Colonial settler going to a new home; he says: "The whole family, household furniture and farming tools are packed on a covered cart; the entire wardrobe is packed into a firkin, and with axe over his shoulder the young settler starts his team into the woods; having buried himself in the woods he builds his log-hut, clears away his field for pumpkins, corn and beans,

and Providence smiling on his labors he is soon surrounded by a snug farm and half a score of urchins."

The intellectual life of the people, notwithstanding the simplicity of their lives, was serious and keen. They delighted in an exchange of views and enjoyed discussion, especially about religion, politics, and the better way to carry on their farm. The loneliness of their lives made them contemplative.

Religion and politics were the only matters of larger interest which engrossed their attention. It was an age of theological discussion, theological ideas were very real; it was also an age in which the settlers were agents in shaping great political institutions and far reaching political ideas. The one public building was the Meeting House, a building where the people met for two purposes, to worship God and discuss and settle civic affairs. Since the landing of the Mayflower, men who settled on the soil of New England had been thrown upon their own resources to make "all manner of laws, orders and ordinances," and to abide by them.

The settlers provided their own shelter, clothing and food. An old poem speaks somewhat exultingly of the abundance and variety of food which the settlers along the coast enjoyed, though the same would appear a very limited and very insufficient menu to the people of today:

> "If fresh meat be wanting to fill up our dish,
> We have carrots and turnips as much as we wish;
> And if we have a mind for a delicate dish,
> We go to the beach for clams and for fish.
> For Porridge and Puddings and Custards and Pies
> Our Pumpkins and Parsnips are common supplies.
>
> "If Barley be wanting to make into malt,
> We must be content and think it no fault,
> For we can make liquor to sweeten our lips
> From pumpkins and parsnips and walnut-tree-chips."

The second stanza of the above poem reveals the economic conditions which gave rise to the sad evil of intemperance which brought such great hardships into colonial life. The English immigrants came from a beer drinking people in old England. For two hundred years "brown ale and cakes" had been the luxury of the English commoner, but here in America there was very little cleared land, not room to raise barley and make beer, and so the colonial drink became cider made from apples and New England rum made from molasses. The vast amounts of cider and rum consumed by the settlers brought great misery and hardship to their homes, especially in the lives of the women

and children. And the use of these beverages by the clergymen at ecclesiastical gatherings removed every social restraint upon the habits of intemperance.

The life and training of the children was severe. To find clothing and food for a half dozen children under ten years of age was not easy; in many homes children had no shoes at any season of the year. In the home of my great grandfather in upper New Hampshire there were eight husky boys between the ages of 12 and 20 and only four pairs of cowhide boots. In getting up the wood four boys would take the oxen and sleds and go into the woods and bring it to the wood pile, while four other boys would stand on a plank in their thick woolen stockings and saw and split the wood. Two planks were used. One being kept before the fireplace in the house, and with each load of wood it was brought out warm for the boys to stand upon, and the cold plank carried to the fireplace to be warm when the next load came.

In many homes the living-room was overcrowded and some of the children were not allowed at the table but ate from a board shelf which ran along one side of the kitchen. Children were instructed as to their behavior under rules of stern discipline. Popular books on the instructions of children which have survived reveal the precise and complete code of religion and manners which was taught the children. From one of these I quote from the passage on

Manners for Children

"Never sit down at the table till asked and after the blessing."

"Bite not any bread, but break it with the fingers."

"Never sing, talk, hum or wiggle in the presence of elders."

"When an older person speaks to you, stand up."

"Never question the truth of what is said, nor snigger at the remark."

"The pupil in his school must always bow to the teacher or when strangers enter."

"Do not walk beside an elder but fall respectfully behind."

"Do not jeer at other scholars or give them affront in any way."

Theological Discussion

Religion was the concern of all. Each new church was designated as "A Church-State," carrying out the ideas of the puritan Rev. John White.

And religion consisted far too much of assent to orthodox theological doctrine.

The Apostle Paul brought over into primitive Christianity much of the Rabbinic Theological discussion and his Epistles are a mine of rich ore for the theological mind. The Latin people had a genius for insti-

tutions and organization and they made Christianity into an Institution before 300 A. D., and until the time of the Protestant Reformation it consisted of attending the rites of the Institution. A majority could not read and their knowledge of the life of Christ consisted for the most part from the story learned by studying "The Stations of the Cross" which were found in every church edifice, and which made vivid the sacrifice on Calvary.

The Reformation took theological discussion outside the monasteries and Universities, and the discovery of printing and the placing of the Bible in the hands of the people, made theological discussion the intellectual exercise of all thoughtful men and women. Especially did the New World become fertile soil for every preacher, who argued theology from the Bible, and every proclaimer of a New Faith. Quaker, Shaker, Universalist, Unitarian, Arminian and Calvinist could be sure of careful attention wherever he preached.

No one was thought too young to be taught theology and the text books in the schools were really work of theological instruction. Catechisms were printed by order of the General Court, and an Act forcing education was passed in order that all should be able to read the Bible.

I quote a passage from the Catechism printed by order of the Massachusetts General Court in 1641, under which body the town of Hampton then lived.

Question: "Where are you going O Christless sinner?"
Answer: "I am going to hell."
Question: "When are you going to hell?"
Answer: "At the longest it will be but a few years, but it may be in weeks, hours, or even minutes."
Question: "What company will you have in hell?"
Answer: "Company enough; most of the old world, all Israel save a remnant, many professed Christians, and all the world of men save the few elect from every nation."

The Farmer's Catechism endeavored to clear up some of the natural repugnant feelings against the extreme doctrines taught in the official Catechism as we see by the following question of the child to his father, with the father's answer:

Son: "Father, do you not think that if I should see one of my brothers damned and left in hell I should cry?"
Answer: "No son; nor would I. For the children shall rejoice to see their parents damned, and parents shall rejoice to see their children damned, if they die enemies of Christ and his ways."

Terms of Social Position and Titles

In old days we find the term "freeman," "yeoman," "gent," or "gentlemen," of which the explanation is as follows:

By Massachusetts law at first only church members were freeman, and only such could vote or hold office. This law was somewhat modified in 1658 and non-freemen were allowed in town affairs but could not vote for Province officials or Deputies to the General Court. The law was further modified and men were allowed the full franchise as freemen if they took the freemen's oath.

In England people below the nobility and above the Plebians had various titles which were also used in early colonial life in America. An educated man or a man of wealth was called Mister. A man who could live without manual labor was called Gent or Gentlemen. A man who owned land was a Yeoman and was designated by the title Goodman while his wife was designated as "Goodie." Magistrates were called "Esquires." Militia officers had military titles, and Ministers and Doctors had their respective titles.

LIGHTS — Light from the fireplace was all that was usually had, but when more was used the white people learned from the Indians to use pitchy pine knots which they called "candlewood." For reading, singing, school or spelling school, tallow candles were used. Tallow brought the same price as butter and people were saving in their use of it.

TRAVEL — Travel by team was popular in the winter season. Streams that had no bridges would be frozen over and the sled with seats thereon made travel more pleasant than the bumping dead axle wagon. The sleigh with its box like top began to appear around 1760 and sleigh-rides became popular.

NAMES — Prior to 1700 children were given only a single Christian name and the double Christain name does not become common till after 1800. Most of the names were taken from the Bible, John being the name most often used, after which came: Samuel, Ebenezer, Joseph, Nathaniel, Jonathan, William, Thomas, Daniel, Stephen, James, and Moses.

GRIST MILLS — These were sometimes called Corn Mills. They were built where there was water power to grind wheat, rye, corn and barley into meal.

SAW MILLS — Before saw mills were erected and in places where there were no saw mills, logs were hauled to the saw pits to be made into boards or planks. Two men worked in the pit, the more expert man standing on top of the log and guiding the saw and the other man beneath in the pit. Two men could thus saw about 100 feet of square inch boards in a day. Their pay was around 2 shillings a day. The first saw mill erected in New England was on the Piscataqua River in 1633 or 1634.

LUXURIES — Snuff was used before 1700 and the gentry were using silver snuff boxes shortly after. Smoking in pipes was found from the first but cigars were not used till around 1800. West India rum was the aristocrat among beverages while cider from the wild apples, beer from barley, and New England rum from molasses was in far too general use.

SOAP — Soap was home-made being made in great kettles and put into firkins or small barrels to be used up. Mrs. Melcher was boiling soap in early days when three Indians rattled her door and tried to get in, she threw the boiling soap down upon them, and they ran howling away.

BIRTHS — Births were attended by midwives. There were few Doctors and they were seldom called upon.

FUNERALS — Lechford in "News from New England" 1642 wrote, "At funerals nothing is read nor any funeral sermon made but the bell is tolled, the neighbors gather and solemnly carry the dead and stand by while he is buried. The minister is most commonly present but takes no part."

For a minister to offer a prayer at a funeral was felt to be following the practice of the Catholic Church and it was many years before New England ministers prayed at funerals. In 1719 the Rev. Mather remarks that some ministers make a prayer at the house and a short speech at the grave. In Old England many funerals closed with merry-making and much drinking and funeral sermons were preached. As time went on there was also in New England the preaching of funeral sermons and the drinking of liquor.

COURTSHIP — In earlier days homes had but one large fireplace and the young man who came to see the maiden and who desired more privacy and could not sit in the cold part of the house, was wrapped in blankets by the elders, as was the maiden, and the couple could thus lie for many hours upon the great bed in comfort. So many times the young people became unbundled and compulsory marriage followed that the practice was frowned upon, and the stern Rev. Jonathan Edwards of Northampton preached one of his celebrated sermons against it.

MARRIAGES — In Massachusetts, at first, marriages were performed by the magistrates but the people wanted to be married by their minister and in 1692 the General Court provided that marriages could be performed by settled ministers. As early as 1800 the wedding dance followed the ceremony, either the same day or the next. In New London in 1769 there was a great wedding dance at which the guests danced 92 jigs, 52 contra dances, 45 minuets and 17 hornpipes. The dance lasted all day until 45 minutes past midnight.

The Use of Double Dates, Like Feb. 6, 1745|6

Owing to an error in the calendar established by Cæsar, 46 B. C., one day was lost in every 129 years. The English Parliament corrected the situation in 1752 when it shortened the month of September to 19 days. The change made a distinction between "old style" and "new style." Columbus discovered America October 12, 1492 "old style" but October 21 "new style."

Cæsar began the year January first but the Christian calendar began with Easter, but as this was a movable date they reckoned back nine months from December 25th, the date of Jesus' birth, which gave them March 25th, the date of his conception, and began the year then. In the 1752 change by Parliament, it was for a time the practice to designate with double figures the period between January 1, and March 25. Thus February 1, 1745-6 indicated the year 1745, beginning in March but the year 1746 beginning in January.

The Settlers' Food, Crops, Money, Customs, and Habits

FOOD — The white people learned from the Indians to dry pumpkins. Pumpkin-paring bees were social events like huskings. Pumpkin pies were the colonial delicacy. Salt pork, smoked bacon, sausage, eggs, domestic fowl, cheese, Indian puddings, molasses were forms of food used from the start. To these were added in their season, berries, nuts, maple sugar, etc.

CROPS — Rye, buckwheat, barley, wheat, Indian corn, turnips, beans, pumpkins, peas were the principal crops. Turnips were eaten with meat as we now eat potatoes. Potatoes were not grown here till 1718 when the Scotch-Irish came, and the custom of raising them was taken up very slowly; as late as 1854 my great grandfather raised only 8 bushels though he had a family of 14. He had a root-cellar in the field full of ruta-baga turnips.

MONEY — Massachusetts Bay in 1702 began the issue of Province bill. In 1736 the amount of silver at which bills could be redeemed was changed. The first bills were called "old tenor," and the new bills were called "new tenor." Later another change was made and there was "old tenor," "middle tenor," and "new tenor."

The English pound of sterling silver was originally coined into twenty shillings; other silver coins were the crown (5 shillings), the half-crown, six pence, four pence, and also the copper penny. Massachusetts in 1652, began to coin the pine tree shilling, which contained only 72 grains of silver as against 92 grains in the English shilling. This was so in order to keep these coins in America. Any silver coin was good money as the Spanish "piece of eight" worth 6 shillings.

CHAPTER 4

SETTLING THE LAND, 1702-1732 — FORBEARS OF THE PIONEERS — ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE HOUSEHOLDERS IN 1732

Settling the Land

The Land Division of 1702 distributed 312 titles to as many half shares of 10½ acres each to 312 males above 21 in Hampton. This land lay along our side of Kingston and Exeter lines. The Land Divisions of 1707 and 1709 distributed the titles to the remainder of our territory.

Thus a large tract was open for settlement in 1702, and all land was open for settlement as early as 1709. The Hog-Pen farm, the Fuller grant and a few other early grants were in the hands of owners long before 1700, but save for the Fuller farm I find none of them occupied with house built, though the Greens and Johnsons mowed and tilled parts of Hog-Pen farm, operating from their homes in Hampton Falls.

Kensington's long ridges of high ground offered fine dwelling spots for the hardy young people in Hampton and Hampton Falls, who must move out from crowded homes and build their own homes. These hills would quickly dry out and be ready for spring planting of rye, buckwheat, beans, corn, pumpkins and turnips the first year after the trees were cut.

Thus family parties were organized to come here from Hampton and Hampton Falls, help the prospective young pioneer clear his land and get ready for his new home. Tradition survives of how these parties with their oxen came here, bringing as food their rough bread and large kettles of bean porridge and corned meats. They worked for three or four days, sleeping in the open around the blazing fire at night, and when they returned the trees were cut, a house was framed, perhaps boarded in as well, great logs snaked into piles for burning, and next spring the young husband with his own oxen, a gift or payment for work from his father, and the young wife with her cow, the gift from her father, would come here and start life.

Soon a rough road from house to house over the hills would be made and from that on back to the old plantation of Hampton and extending on to nearest neighbors at Kingston. These roads followed the three ridges, Red Oak, Stumpfield and Horse-Hill.

Forbears of the Pioneers

Hampton families sent the major part of the settlers here between 1702 and 1732, though a few Salisbury and Exeter families contributed a few and one man came down from Kingston.

The List of Families whose young men and maidens came here with zeal to conquer Nature, build their own homes, self-reliant at an early age, like young birds pushed from their nest they were forced to build their own careers, is as follows: —

FROM HAMPTON FAMILIES

Batchelder	Fellows	Johnson	Prescott
Blake	Fogg	Lamprey	Rowe
Brown	Gove	Locke	Sanborn
Cass	Green	Longfellow	Smith
Chapman	Griffin	Melcher	Swain
Chase	Herdie (Hardy)	Page	Tilton
Clifford	Hilliard	Palmer	Tuck
Dow	Hobbs	Perkins	Ward
Dearborn	James	Puddington (Purington)	Weare

FROM SALISBURY FAMILIES

Connor	Eastman	Knowlton
Cluff (Clough)	Evens	Pike

From EXETER FAMILIES, Cram, Draper, Graves, Wadleigh
From KINGSTON, Hutchins (Hutchinson)

List of Householders 1732

John Fuller, the one man born in old England who came here, and was here in 1670, either died or moved away. He came from England in 1635 with William Fuller of Hampton. I do not know what was his relationship to William. He was born in 1620. He was the first white settler and was probably a single man; I find no record of his marriage or being a father.

Jonathan Prescott, Nathaniel Prescott and Deacon John Prescott, and William Brown, were the earliest of the settlers who made permanent homes here. The Prescotts were sons of James, who built at "Apple Crest" in 1667.

Jonathan had the farm where Dr. Clifford G. Rounsefell now lives; Nathaniel had the farm where George A. Prescott now lives; and Deacon John had the farm where Melvin Armstrong now lives.

William Brown settled here some time in 1702 on the farm where Sumner Card now lives. He died in 1725, leaving two houses; he having already built a large frame house and giving his early small house to a daughter who married Nathan Cluff in 1722.

The next settler was Capt. Robert Rowe, who built between 1707 and 1710 the house now standing, and the property and birthplace of Mayor Stewart Everett Rowe of Portsmouth, and the oldest house in town.

The next settler in point of time was Samuel Clifford who was married in 1712 in February and who had located on Clifford Ridge (just above where Alexander Groetz now lives) in 1713 when his daughter was born there.

John Batchelder came to the last farm this side Kingston line on the North Road, and his house was not far from the later Batchelder house recently bought by Charles Caldwell of Exeter. He was there in 1715, his brother Nathaniel living with him. Two years later Nathaniel married and took up land on "Exeter Lane," the present Baker Farm, where Fred Eastman now lives.

The date that the other householders, who were here in 1732, located in Kensington I have not traced out. I give their names below, with date of birth and marriage, and it is probable that they all came here upon their marriage, or very soon after.

The "New Hampshire State Papers" preserve the petitions signed in 1732 by 60 householders in what is now Kensington, and state that these are in addition to Quakers, who were not asked to sign. The List gives the 60 names, with the Quakers whose names are not on the list. It is the result of long and careful research, and is, I think, a complete list of men possessing homes and living here in 1732. In some instances two householders lived together in a double house.

THE HOUSEHOLDER	DATE BORN	DATE MARRIED	WIFE'S NAME
Batchelder, John	July 28, 1692	Dec. 30, 1714	Abigail Cram
Batchelder, Nathaniel	Feb. 19, 1690	Feb. 24, 1717	Sarah Robie
Blake, Hezekiah	Feb. 4, 1703	Jan. 7, 1725	Joanna Fellows
Blake, Moses	——— 1682	Dec. 25, 1701	Abigail Smith
(Moses was father of Hezekiah; he came here 1728, probably following his son.)			
Blake, Moses, Jr.	April 22, 1707	——— 1726	Mehitable Smith
Blake, Philemon	Mar. 12, 1706	Dec. 21, 1727	Lydia Boulter
Blake, Samuel	Nov. 3, 1696	Jan. 8, 1719	Ann Cilley
Brown, William	June 5, 1680	June 9, 1701	Ann Heath
Brown, Ebenezer	——— 1696	Feb. 27, 1724	Sobriety Moulton
Brown, Josiah	Feb. 15, 1701	Jan. 1, 1724	Elizabeth Toll (Towle)
Brown, Jonathan	Feb. 24, 1700	Feb. 27, 1725	Joanna Abba
Cass, Jonathan	——— 1698	——— 1724	———
Cass, Jonathan	Sept. 13, 1663		———
(The second Jonathan was father of the first and came to live with his son.)			
Chapman, John	Nov. 20, 1705	——— 1729	Huldah Hoyt
Clifford, Samuel	Mar. 28, 1689	Feb. 28, 1712	Sarah Dow
Chase, Elihu	Sept. 7, 1705	Dec. 9, 1730	Mary Swayne
Cluff, Nathan	——— 1700	Oct. 25, 1722	Rachel Brown

THE HOUSEHOLDER	DATE BORN	DATE MARRIED	WIFE'S NAME
*Connor, George	——— 1699	——— 1726	———
Cram, Wadleigh	Oct. 12, 1702	Oct. 24, 1723	Hannah Marston
Cram, Benjamin	Mar. 16, 1699	———	Abigail Dearborn
Cram, John	May 16, 1710	———	Mary Sanborn
Dearborn, Nathaniel	Jan. 21, 1710	Dec. 2, 1731	Mary Bachelder
*Dow, John, Sr.	Dec. 12, 1665	———	Hannah Page
*Dow, John, Jr.	———	———	———
Dow, Deac. Jonathan	Oct. 1, 1703	Nov. 20, 1723	Sarah Weare
Dow, Philip	Apr. 26, 1695	———	Hannah Griffin
Dow, Ezekiel	Jan. 5, 1698	Mar. 3, 1726	Abigail Roby
Draper, Joseph	———	———	———
Eastman, Jeremiah	——— 1706	——— 1725	———
Evens, William			
Fellows, Isaac	Dec. 2, 1699	Nov. 1, 1721	Abigail Sleeper
Fellows, Jonathan	———	——— 1733	Widow Ebra Tilton

(Deacon Fellows was a widower who came here from Ipswich a few years before he married Widow Tilton.)

Fogg, James	Feb. 7, 1699	Jan. 2, 1728	Elizabeth Robie
*Gove, Edward	May 29, 1696	———	Bethia Clark
Gove, Ebenezer	Feb. 5, 1703	Mar. 28, 1728	Elizabeth Steward
*Gove, John	May 29, 1689	Mar. 24, 1720	Ruth Johnson
Graves, John	Mar. 27, 1704	Feb. 26, 1714	Deborah Marston

(His father, William Graves, lived with him in old age.)

Griffin, Philip	———	Dec. 21, 1721	Sarah Brown
*Green, Jeremiah	Nov. 26, 1697	——— 1722	———
*Green, John	Mar. 1, 1711	——— 1734	Mary Gove

(His father, John Sr., born May 20, 1673 and married Dec. 23 to Abigail Marston, carried on the Hog-Pen Farm before John Jr. came here; whether he had a house I am not sure, but think yes.)

Herdie (Hardy), John	———	———	Lydia ———
Hobbs, Steven	Mar. 18, 1700	———	Petience Towle
Hutchins, Timothy			
James, Edmund	Nov. 22, 1704	July 24, 1728	Priscilla ———
James, Israel	Sept. 19, 1706	July 24, 1728	Ruth Marston
*Johnson, Obadaih	May 10, 1705	Jan. 28, 1730	Judith Brown

(His father, Edmund, born July 3, 1671, married Sept. 23, 1693 to Abigail Green, sister of Jeremiah and John Jr., helped carry on their part of Hog-Pen Farm and came in old age to live here.)

Kelly, Daniel			
Knowlton, Ebenezer	——— 1677	——— 1722	Mary Cram
Lamprey, Henry	Feb. 25, 1701	May 22, 1728	Esther Palmer
Locke, Edward	May 28, 1701	Dec. 17, 1724	Hannah Blake

Longfellow, Widow Mary — (Widow of Nathan who died 1731)

Melcher, John			
Moulton, Abraham	Sept. 8, 1694	May 9, 1720	Jane Libbey
Page, John	Oct. 19, 1706	——— 1729	Hepzibah Cole
Page, Samuel	Oct. 3, 1703	July 2, 1729	Mary Clark
*Page, Theophilus	———	Dec. 24, 1730	Hannah Dow
Palmer, Edward	Mar. 26, 1698	Oct. 26, 1725	———
Palmer, Jonathan	Mar. 26, 1698	Oct. 26, 1725	Anne Brown

THE HOUSEHOLDER	DATE BORN	DATE MARRIED	WIFE'S NAME
Perkins, James	Mar. 17, 1696	Feb. 22, 1729	Shuah Nason
Pike, Joseph	——— 1706	Dec. 8, 1731	Sarah Thompson
Prescott, Jonathan	May 6, 1675	——— 1695	Elizabeth ———
Prescott, Dea. John	Nov. 19, 1681	———————	Abigail Marston
Prescott, Nathaniel	Nov. 19, 1683	———————	Ann Marston
Prescott, Jonathan	July 16, 1696	Apr. 3, 1721	Judith Gove
Purington, Elisha	———————	Jan. 19, 1725	Phoebe Swett
Rowe, Capt. Robert	———————	Dec. 19, 1707	Mehitable Leavett
Rowe, Jonathan	Sept. 30, 1710	Single man	
Rowe, Joseph			
Sanborn, Richard	Feb. 27, 1693	Jan. 21, 1713	Eliz Batchelder
Sanborn, Abraham	Mar. 10, 1696	Jan. 2, 1718	Dorothy Smith
Sanborn, James	Aug. 6, 1696	Jan. 18, 1720	Eliz Leavitt
Sanborn, David	Jan. 16, 1702	Mar. 2, 1727	Abigail Glidden
Shaw, Joseph	Nov. 1, 1681	Dec. 12, 1705	Hannah Johnson
Shaw, Gideon	Nov. 30, 1706		
Smith, Reuben	——— 1706		Joanna Morgan
Tilton, John	June 14, 1702	Feb. 19, 1724	Hannah Robie
Tilton, Sherburne	Nov. 19, 1709	Apr. 14, 1726	Anne Hilliard
Tilton, Joseph	Sept. 26, 1710	Dec. 13, 1733	Eliz Weare
Toppan, John	———————	Single man	
Tucke, Edward	Feb. 7, 1795	Nov. 24, 1720	Sarah Dearborn
Wadleigh, Joseph	Sept. 1698		Lydia Smith
Ward, Sharach	Oct. 22, 1699	——— 1732	Margeret ———
Ward, Noah	May 16, 1696	Sept. 5, 1725	Sarah ———
*Ward, Abel	Jan. 1, 1694	Oct. 23, 1724	Mary Melcher
Weare, John	Nov. 12, 1696	——— 1720	Deborah Taylor

Those starred (*) were Quakers.

A list of " rate-payers " in Hampton Falls owned by the late Asa Warren Brown, and copied by Warren Brown in his History of Hampton Falls, Vol. I, pages 289-293, shows 36 of the above named householders were here in March, 1727, besides Quakers. The others came between 1727 and 1732 with perhaps some of the Quakers.

CHAPTER 5

MOVEMENTS FOR AN INDEPENDENT PARISH, 1732-1736 — KENSINGTON INCORPORATED AS A PARISH, APRIL 1, 1737

The First Move for a Separate Parish

Householders on Horse-Hill and Stumpfield Roads Join Their Neighbors in Eastern Kingston and Petition For a New Parish

Moses Blake, Joseph Shaw, Jonathan Prescott, Nathaniel Prescott, John Prescott, Capt. Robert Rowe, Ebenezer Knowlton, were all older men living here in 1732. The rest were very young men. John Green, Sr., and Edmund Johnson, Quakers, were older men who had aided their sons to establish here, and were vitally interested in the locality, as also were Capt. Joseph Tilton, Jonathan Cass and William Graves; the last two came here later to live with their sons.

In 1731 there were 28 families living on Horse-Hill and Stumpfield roads, and there were a like number of families over Kingston line in what is now East Kingston, and 3 families in what is now South Hampton, on the road by the Gove-Hallowell farm.

This goodly number of some 60 families, headed for the most part by younger men, made strong agitation in 1731 for a New Parish to be petitioned for from the General Assembly, to be made up of Eastern Kingston and the extreme Western part of Hampton Falls.

Their petition was signed and presented in the House of the Assembly on May 9, 1732; and in the Council of the Assembly on May 13, 1732.

It was signed by 58 householders. The 3 South Hampton men, Richard Fitts, Jonathan Dole and Benj. French, all signed; there were 37 signers from Eastern Kingston and 18 signers from Kensington.

Kensington Signers

Horse-Hill Road	Stumpfield Road
John Weare	Isaac Fellows
Jonathan Dow	Elihu Chase
Jonathan Palmer	Hezekiah Blake
Benjamin Brown	James Perkins
Philip Dow	Reuben Smith
Ezekiel Dow	Nathaniel Dearborn
John Graves	Joseph Shaw
Samuel Clifford	Gideon Shaw
	Edward Locke
	Mary Longfellow, widow of Nathan

It will be seen that Joseph Shaw was the only older man to sign the petition. Moses Blake did not sign, though his son did, nor did several others on both roads.

The Protest Breaks

At once a violent storm broke. Kingston protested against losing its eastern section and Hampton Falls protested against losing its western section, and the great majority of Kensington people either remained neutral or signed petitions of protest.

Pressure on the Assembly brought delay in action by that body and August 28, 1732, both Kingston and Hampton Falls held special meetings to act in protest of petition for the new parish.

Kingston adopted resolutions and appointed Capt. Jonathan Sanborn and Mr. Ebenezer Stevens as a committee to present them to the Assembly.

Hampton Falls adopted resolutions of protest and chose Mr. Ichabod Robie to present them to the Assembly.

The whole issue in the Assembly called for considerable record, all of which is fortunately preserved, and is printed in the NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE PAPERS, Vol. 9, from page 348, and Vol. 24, pages 887-890. Here we have the names, maps, etc., to all of which we are indebted for a knowledge of the people and locality in 1732, and which is our earliest such record to be found.

The resolutions adopted in both town meetings were blistering in their attack upon the petitioners. I quote a paragraph from the resolutions adopted in Kingston Town Meeting.

> **" These petitioners are new comers to settle among us. Many are young men with no families. None, or but one of them, was at any trouble or charge with us in the long and tedious wars we endured from a heathen enemy, and none were with us in building our Meeting House some twenty years ago. . . . Further, if they be allowed to depart and worship and center in the Meeting House 2½ miles away, of which they have the frame up, they will divide the parish and leave us weak."**

To strengthen their argument and show their ability to maintain public worship in a " New Church-State " the petitioners had raised the frame for a new Meeting House 2½ miles this side of the other Meeting House at Kingston Plains.

The Kingston protest probably refers only to the petitioners the Kingston side of the Kingston - Hampton Falls line, but the resolutions adopted at Hampton Falls Town Meeting were equally violent.

Drinkwater Road in Kensington United in Protest

All settlement in Kensington along lower Hog-Pen Road, Red Oak Ridge, Drinkwater Road and Exeter Lane were united in their protest of the new parish. The maps show 33 families on Red Oak, Drinkwater and Exeter Lane, and there must have been five or six on lower Hog-Pen Road.

Not to be outdone by the South Road and Middle Road effort in conjunction with East Kingston, the North Road people had their own raising on June 25, 1732, and put up the frame for a substantial Meeting House at Drinkwater (see Rev. Joseph Whipple's diary). This was on the knoll opposite the present home of Harry Philbrick, the old Jonathan Tuck house.

They also presented their petition of Protest, signed by the following Kensington householders.

Kensington Signers of Protest Petition

John Prescott
James Prescott
John Bachelder
Abraham Moulton
Jonathan Tilton
Daniel Kelly
Stephen Hobbs
Simon Bachelder
Robert Rowe
William Evens
Joseph Draper
Benj. Cram
Jonathan Rowe
* Ebenezer Prescott
Shadrack Ward
John Tilton
Philemon Blake
John Melcher
Joseph Rowe
Wadley Cram
James Fogg
John Page
Edmund James
Isreal James
John Cram
John Tappan
Richard Sanborn
Samuel Blake
Shurburn Tilton
James Sanborn
David Sanburn
Timothy Hutchinson

There is quite a group who did not sign any petition, probably because the proposed line of the proposed parish did not molest them. They were Jonathan Brown, Joseph Pike, Jeremiah Brown and Jeremiah Eastman of South Road (Horse-Hill); Henry Lamprey and Ebenezer Brown of the Middle Road (Stumpfield); Joseph Wadleigh, Nathaniel and Jonathan Prescott.

The storm of protest accomplished the required result and the Assembly dismissed, for good and all, the petition on March 1, 1733.

"Drinkwater" Moves for Winter Preaching

With its Meeting House frame up the section called Drinkwater moved to complete its Meeting House and be ready for winter preaching, thus to save the longer trips to Hampton Falls. To have it take in the section south Elihu Chase offered them a lot for a "Meeting House Acre" on the edge of Hog-Pen Meadow. This acre took in the lot where the Union Meeting House, Town Hall and a section of the graveyard now are.

The offer was accepted, the frame was moved with oxen, and the Meeting House was ready for preaching on Feb. 3, 1734, when Rev. Joseph Whipple came up and preached the first sermon at the first religious service in Kensington held in a religious Meeting House.

Just how much preaching Kensington had that winter we are not sure but probably most of the time. Mr. Jeremiah Fogg of Hampton was studying theology with Mr. Whipple and Mr. Whipple could send him to Kensington or leave him at Hampton Falls and come himself.

Hampton Falls Votes Winter Preaching for Kensington

Oct. 7, 1734, at Town Meeting in Hampton Falls, they voted as follows:

> "That if the people in the west part of the parish hire a minister for four months in the winter, the charge thereof be added to the rates of the parish in order that it be paid by the parish as a whole.
>
> "Voted to increase the salary of Mr. Whipple 20 pounds to enable him to hire the winter parish pastor for Drinkwater meeting house."

Mr. Whipple hired Mr. Fogg and paid him the 20 pounds. March 24, 1735, the Town Meeting at Hampton Falls voted to excuse the people living in the west part of the parish from paying ministerial rates to the Hampton Falls meeting, and to agree upon a division line between the two sections of the parish of Hampton Falls.

This action was taken in response to the petition that the "west part" had sent to the Assembly for a separate parish. This action was practically agreeing to the petition of the "west part." Some who did not feel like going so far had a special meeting called for April 28, 1735, to take further action on "Excusing the people in the 'west part' from paying any charge of the Hampton Falls Parish," but it was passed without action.

Kensington's Second Move to Become a Parish

The March session of the Assembly, 1735, had before it the petition signed by heads of 60 families, asking a separate parish in the west part of Hampton Falls. Mr. Whipple was highly pleased at the success his

pupil, Mr. Jeremiah Fogg, was having there, and was in favor of setting up a new parish where he could become a minister. That the people were willing is seen by the above noted votes in Town Meetings at Hampton Falls.

The Assembly was impressed favorably and it passed an order creating a committee to visit the territory and lay out the new parish and report at its fall session.

Unfortunately there was a fire that summer which burned the home of the secretary of the Assembly, and with it the petition and record of the action of the Assembly. This necessitated another petition, which led up to: —

The Town's Third and Final Move for Independence

March 8, 1736, there was read in the Assembly, the petition of Jonathan Prescott, Joseph Wadleigh and John Batchelder of the North Road, and John Weare and Ezekiel Dow of the South Road, which related the facts of the previous year, of the fire, etc., and on behalf of the 60 original signers they asked the present Assembly to carry out the promises of the previous Assembly.

April 24 both House and Council voted in favor and a committee was appointed to report back its action as to bounds, etc. on Sept. 2, 1736.

Kensington Incorporated a Separate Parish, April 1, 1737

Whether it was the fault of the committee or the Assembly we do not know, but no action was taken at the fall session. At the spring session, on March 29, 1737, the House took up the committee's report and on April 1st, both House and Council voted an act incorporating the Parish of Kensington.

Owing to some misunderstanding as to where the Committee had drawn the boundary, the Assembly in the fall took up the matter again, and on August 19, 1737, confirmed its act of April 1st.

Status of the New Parish

In 1732, Hampton and North Hampton, land North of Taylor River, had 257 polls, 142 two-story houses and 29 one-story houses, and had a valuation of 9,974 pounds.

Hampton Falls, Kensington and Seabrook, land South of Taylor River, had 256 polls, 144 two-story houses and 46 one-story houses, and a valuation of 9,575 pounds.

Our list above locates 86 householders in Kensington in 1732, and there were some polls in addition, men working here.

In 1737, Simon and Jeremiah Batchelder, nephews of John and who grew up in his home, had become voters. Caleb, Elihu and Moses Shaw, younger brothers of Gideon and sons of Joseph, had become voters.

So had Abraham, Benjamin and James Prescott, sons of John; Joseph and Moses Rowe, sons of Capt. Robert; Samuel Clifford, Jr.; Joseph Tilton, son of Capt. Joseph and younger brother to John and Sherburne; Moses Sanborn; Thomas Knowlton; Elisha Blake, son of Philemon; Thomas Brown, younger brother of Josiah, all became voters.

Abraham Haskell came here in 1733 from Gloucester and Amesbury. Wade Stickney came here in 1734, a young man to work for John Weare. Gideon Tyrill came between 1732 and 1735; John Lovering came in 1733; Benjamin James, Jonathan Pulsipher, Joseph Chase Hilliard, had all come since 1732 and all these newcomers, with Jonathan Fellows, here before 1733 but married that year, had built themselves homes, as had some of the younger men who had matured.

Thus in 1737, when Kensington became independent, it must have had over 100 homes, near 130 voters and a valuation beyond 10,000 pounds.

The population in 1735 was 600 but the Diphtheria scourge of 1735 and 1736 cut it down to not much over 500 in 1737.

In 1737, the following was the population in the major cities in America: —

Boston 15,000 Philadelphia 12,000 New York City 10,000
Charleston, S. C. 6,000 Newport, R. I. 5,500

CHAPTER 6

THE FIRST 25 YEARS OF OUR STRUGGLING LITTLE DEMOCRACY — A MINISTER SETTLED AND PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ESTABLISHED — ROADS TO MEETING HOUSE LAID OUT — RECORDS FROM EARLY TOWN MEETINGS — ITEMS FROM EARLY BOOKS OF SELECTMEN — A LIST OF MEN WHO HELD TOWN OFFICE, 1737-1762

Pursuant to the Act of Incorporation April 1, 1737, the first Town Meeting was held on April 18, called by the Committee designated by the Assembly, viz: Joseph Wadleigh, John Weare and Ezekiel Dow.

For 25 years the Parish was a self-contained little Democracy, having power and responsibility of directing its own affairs, with no power or obligation to take part in anything beyond its own town borders. Not till December, 1761 did the Assembly allow them privilege of sending a representative, which was acted upon in March of 1762, thus lacking only three weeks of the full 25 years.

Ezekiel Dow, First Town Clerk — His Records Complete

Capt. Henry Dow of Hampton, born in England 1734, and coming to America with his father in 1737, was a superior man. He was the progenitor of the type of the Country Squire of olden days. He practiced law, settled estates, surveyed land, and above all kept a diary.

His grandson, Ezekiel Dow, born Jan. 5, 1698, married Abigail Roby March 3, 1726 and settled immediately in Kensington. He followed in the steps of his grandfather; he was our first town clerk, first schoolmaster and Justice of the Peace.

It is from his substantial book of well kept records that we can reconstruct so much of the first 25 years of the life of the town, and from which we first copy.

Mr. Dow had a good sense of the value of things and before entering any running record of events, he copied on the first page the Act of the Assembly creating Kensington as an Independent Parish, which runs as follows: —

Anno Regni Regis Georgii Secundi Duodecimo

An Act for creating and making a parish in Hampton Falls parish. Where as sundry of the inhabtants of the west part of Hampton Falls parish have by their petition to this Court humbly prayed that they may be set off a distinct parish according to certain bounds by them proposed and a Committee appointed by this Court having been upon the premises viewed and surveyed the lands in the said Hampton Falls parish and reported a line for setting of the same.

Be it therefore enacted.

By His Excellency the Gourvnours Council and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same that the west part of Hampton Falls which is circumscribed and bounded as followeth that is to say beginning at Stonebrook Bridge and running west and by north half a mile and from thence on a straight line till it crosses hors hill road forty Rods below on the eastward of Jonathan Browns house so on a straight continous line till it intersects the dividing line between Salisbury and Hampton and from the beginning of the first said Course as from Salisbury line to Exeter line be erected and made into a distinct parish by the name of Kensington. The inhabitants of the said parish to have use exercise and enjoy all immunities and priveleges as other parishes in this province have and to enjoy and have full power as they have excepting the province tax and that to be paid conjunctly as usual and to be collected by the constables of each parish and that Joseph Wadleigh, John Weare and Ezekiel Dow be the men appointed to call the first meeting in April Current and afterwards to proceed as other parishes do.

Copy of Warrant Calling First Town (Parish) Meeting

We give the warrant and the record as they appear in Mr. Dow's book:

Whereas sundry of the inhabitants of ye west part of Hampton Falls parish have by there petition to the General Court humbly showing the grate need there was of another parish in the afore said westerly part of ye Falls parish in Hampton are Corporated and made into a distinct parish by the name of Kensington and are invested with all the powers as other perishes have with in this province and where as His Excellency and the Honorable assembly have appointed John Weare. Ezekial Dow John Wadliegh to call the first perish meeting in said perish.

This is to give notice to the freeholders and other inhabitants of the perish of Kensington to meet at this meetinghouse on monday the eighteenth of this Current month at twelve of the Clock to Chews Selectmen and a Constable and all other perish officers according to Law

Kensington perish the eight of April 1737

The Record of the First Legal Parish Meeting

at a legail meeting of the freeholders of ye perish of Kensington holden in and for said perish on ye eighteenth day of April 1737

1 ly Mr. Richard Sanborn was Chosen moderator for said meeting

2 ly Ezekial Dow was Chosen Clarke for said parish

3 ly Jonathan priscut John Weare and James perkins were Chosen Select men
4 ly John Batchelder was Chosen Constable
5 ly abraham moulton and obediah Johnson were Chosen Sesors
6 ly Edward Tuck and Samuel page were chosen to Call the Select men to a Count
7 ly Moses Blacke and John melcher Chosen Tythingmen
8 ly John Dow was Chosen Serveryor for hors hill Road
9 ly henry Lampry was Chosen serveyer for hogpen Road
10 ly wadleigh Cram and James priscut Chosen serveirors for Drinkwater Road
11 ly Henry Lamprey Chosen Sarcher and Sealer of Leather
12 ly Shidrick ward Chosen hog Constable

To Establish Public Worship and Settle a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the First Business of the Town

Having completed its organization as a civic body our little democracy turns its attention first of all to a proper establishment of Sunday worship. This demanded two things: first, to secure and settle a minister; secondly, to build roads giving access to the Meeting House to all sections of the town. Hitherto, the south, north, and middle roads had been connected with one another by private ways and cart paths which were used by the people who took down and put up the bars as they went through. Now with the Meeting House the official center of their parish the people felt that these connecting ways running toward the Meeting House should become public roads.

Thus there followed the first parish meeting a series of special meetings to deal with the matters of securing a minister and of the laying out of highways. We note below items from the records of these meetings: —

The Series of Meetings to Settle the Minister

May 3, 1737

at a legail meeting of the freeholders of the perish of Kensington holden in and for said parish on ye third day of may 1737

1 ly mr Richard Sanborn being Chosen moderator for said meeting
2 ly voted that mr. fogg shall be payed by way of Rule for preaching ye four months payst
3 ly Abraham moulton Joseph Wadleigh and Samuel page be a commite to hire a minister
4 ly voted that the fore said committe shall have power to hier minister to preach to us till march next

5 ly voted that Abraham moulton and Joseph Wadleigh and Samuel page be a Commite to come in with order to Give a Minister a calle to Settle with us

JUNE 18, 1737

June 18 a special meeting was held to hear the report of its committee to hire a minister. The committee reported in favor of hiring Mr. Jeremiah Fogg. (Mr. Fogg was a native of Hampton, born May 29, 1712. He had graduated from Harvard College and studied theology with the Rev. Mr. Whipple of Hampton Falls and had been the principal supply in the Kensington pulpit during its yearly four-months winter preaching which began in the winter of 1734-1735.)

JUNE 27 a special meeting was held to act upon the committee's report, of which the following is a copy of the quaint record from the town clerk's book:

At a legal meeting of the freeholders of the parish of Kensington holden in and for said parish on the twenty-seventh day of June, 1737

1 ly mr John weare Chosen moderator for said meeting

2 ly voted to Give am minister a Call to settle with us
Joseph Dow Disent

3 ly voted Mr. Jeremieh fogg be the man to settle with us
Henry Lamprey Joseph Row Josiah Brown and Nathaniel Dearborn Disent

4 ly voted that Mr. fogg shall preach with us till March for forty Shillings a day

5 ly voted that mr fogg shall have one hundred and twenty pound the first year and then to add five pounds a yeare for eight yeare and fire wood yearly so long as he shall Continue a minister for us
Henry Lamprey Josiah Brown Disent

6 ly voted that John priscut Joseph Shaw and Samuel Clifford be a Committee to treat with mr. fogg in order to settle him with us.

7 ly voted that the meeting be ajeyned till the eleventh day of July at twelve of the Clock in the day

JULY 11 the adjourned meeting was held as follows: —

at a legail meeting of the freeholders of the parish of Kensington holden by an ajoyrnment on the Eleventh day of july 1737

1 ly voted to build mr fogg a convenient house and barn and digg him a well and stone it and to find himmland to keep two cows and a hors sumer and winter or else to give him two hundred and fifty pound as a free gift to be payed with in

three yeare after his agreeing with us the above vote being left to mr foggs Choice

2 ly voted that there be a consideration in the agreement about the busness of money

3 ly voted to find mr fogg the wood so long as he shall be our minister

September 19 a special meeting was held to authorize payment of his salary to Mr. Fogg and to regulate seating arrangements in the Meeting House. The following is the record: —

At a legal meeting of the freeholders of parish of Kensington holden in and for said parish on the nineteenth day of September in 1737 Mr. Samuel Clifford being Chosen moderator for said meeting

2 ly voted to pay one hundred pound of two hundred and fifty pounds which the parish gave mr fogg This year

Decent Edward Tuck
Edward palmer
Henry Lamprey
Nathan Clough
Josiah Brown
Nathaniel Dearborn

3 ly voted Jeremiah Row
moses Sanborn
Nathaniel Batcheler
Joseph Weare
Nathaniel Priscut

Shall have the privilege of the hind Seate in the frunt Gallery to Meeting House so long as they shall maintain ye Glasse

October 4

A special meeting was held and the fourth Wednesday in November was set as the day " to ordain Mr. Fogg." The following " Comitee to carion the ordination for this parish ":

John Batchelder	James Fogg	Abraham Moulton
Richard Sanborn	John Weare	Ebenezer Brown
Moses Blake	Samuel Page	Robert Row
Ezekial Dow		

The same day the church at Hampton Falls met and dismissed 57 members to organize a church in Kensington.

October 7 the church in Hampton dismissed to the Kensington church Mr. Jeremiah Fogg, ye pastor elect, and 7 members.

November 23rd came the great day for the parish when Mr. Fogg was ordained. The little town was busy entertaining the guests of ministers and deacons from surrounding little democratic "Church-States," as following Rev. John White's plan, each town was called. The General Court at Boston at its meeting 1631 and following carefully carried out the "White plan," and in 1634 voted that none but church members should vote in the affairs of state. Hampton was settled under authority of the Massachusetts General Court and the same idea was carried out in Hampton's daughter towns.

Rev. Jeremiah Fogg remained pastor till Sept. 22, 1789, over 52 years. In that period he solemnized 402 marriages, baptized 1235 persons. He was a studious man of liberal mind and became one of the little early group of Arminians in theology as against the prevailing Calvinism.

He was a genial man, given to joking, and on May 29, 1788, at a meeting of social nature at Major Newell Healey's remarked that during his ministry he had not dared preach all the truth as he saw it for fear his people would beat his brains out.

This remark was mulled over by his enemies in theology, who called an ex parte council on January 20, 1789. This Council met three days and dissolved urging harmony. The Calvinist element would not harmonize and called another Council that met July 7, 1789 at the home of Major Healey. This Council advised Mr. Fogg to make certain retractions or leave the ministry.

Mr. Fogg would not do this, though some of his friends presented a remonstrance, signed by their committee, viz: Caleb Shaw, John Lane, Capt. Winthrop Rowe, Deacon Page and Ebenezer Potter.

A Town Meeting by vote of 52 to 50 voted to dismiss him, but he insisted that though he might be dismissed, they could not break their contract to pay him. Thus after several meetings and conferences, it was agreed between all parties that the pastorate end as of Sept. 22, 1789, with a certain pension paid during life to Mr. Fogg. As the minister died a few weeks after the agreement the pension was not long paid.

1737 Town Meetings on Laying Out Roads

In chapter 14 we have traced from the records the town history of road-building, so here we will note only the two meetings of 1737 to act on the matter of roads.

The first meeting (June 9) authorized the making of the private "Dow Road" into a public way. This was the road now coming from South Road by Eddie Morrill's and John Blake's to connect with the road by the John Chase place and thence to the Meeting House over the abandoned way that came out by Grange Hall.

The road as then used and built did not come to the corner by the home of Ralph E. Noyes to make the turn, but turned in some 250 yards further up and ran down the pasture lane on the John Chase place by the large rock. It was still in 1890 a good private road.

The second meeting of 1737 (Nov. 8) was to close the private road over Red Oak Ridge (now called Moulton's Ridge) and establish a new and better way. We quote below from Mr. Dow's records.

June 9, 1737, THE DOW ROAD. A special town meeting was held to act upon a petition of Ezekiel Dow, John Dow, John Graves, Jonathan Farmer, George Connor, Isaac Fellows, for a road to start at Theophilus Page's corner and go past the homes of Ezekiel Dow, John Graves, George Connor, and Isaac Fellows and connect Horse-Hill Road with Hog-Pen Road near the home of Elihu Chase.

The road was ordered built to follow the existing cart path. It started at the corner above which Moses Wilbur lived and recently died, and ran up the Connor Hill but turned left 250 yards before the present turn in the highway and ran down what was still used as a cart path through the pasture owned by John Chase in 1880 and by the big rock and running to the head of Hog-Pen Lane. Hog-Pen Lane is the lane that starts 50 feet before reaching the house of John Chase in 1880, but now owned by Mr. Hodges. This lane ran down across Elihu Chase's land till it reached the present cemetery when it turned left at the Meeting House and thence going on by round hill to reach Drinkwater Road. The house of Elihu Chase stood on the right as we enter the Lane from Stumpfield Road in what is now the Mace Orchard.

November 8, 1737. A special meeting to lay out a highway over Red Oak Ridge two rods wide through land of James Sandborn and Timothy Hutchins. This action was taken after Mr. Sanborn and Mr. Hutchins had signed the following agreement:

we James Sanborn and Timothy Hutchings Both of Kensington yeoman Dofor our selves and our heirs agree that the line between us shall begin at a beach stum standing at the South end of said Sandborns lot and then to run on a strait Line to a hollow logg Lying on the Stonewall about six foot to the Southward of a white oak tree Standing in said Sanborns lott and that from that line the highway shall from henceforth run southerly two rods in width toward on into Said Hutchings lott where it now want said bredth and that we and each of us and our heirs shall and with from henceforth make our fences according to this agreement in witness thereof we the said James Sanborn and Timothy Hutchinson both of Kensington aforesaid in the Province of New

Hampshire have hereto set our hands this eighth day of November Anna Domini 1737

James Sanburn
his
Timothy Hutchinson
mark

Witnes
James fogg

(This road was further extended May 15, 1749 to accommodate Moses Blake Jr. and Jonathan Pulsipher.)

Interesting Items from the Records, 1737-1762

(From the First Town Clerk's Book)

Some Personal Notes by Mr. Dow

May 29, 1738, Began to keep school in my house.

May 9, 1741, At the south end of my lot, on my land, by the Queen's Bridge, a snow bank 18 inches deep this day.

April 4, 1743, A very great snow such as I think I never knew the like before in this month.

June 3, 1744, It being the Lord's Day, a tremendous Earthquake, such as this country never knew before but once, and that Oct. 29, 1727 at night, and the most fearful night I ever saw or heard.

Provisions for Education and Building a Pound

The first meeting and year were taken up with settling the minister and building roads; the March meeting of 1738, has the first provision noted for education:

March 21, 1738 — Voted "That there be raised 40 pounds for schooling of our children. A school to be kept on Horse Hill Road, on Stumpfield Road, on Drinkwater Road, in proportion as each shall pay. Philip Dow, Philip Griffin and Moses Blake dissent."

(Ezekiel Dow was hired as school master and he notes above that he began to keep school May 29 in his house, now Eddie Morrill's home. The school on Stumpfield and Drinkwater was probably kept in the homes of Elihu Chase and Deacon Moulton.)

March 1739, Voted earmarks for cattle and pigs and to build a pound.

March 1739, 1740, 1741 — Raised 40 pounds schooling, and Esq. Dow hired.

March 1742, Raised 40 pounds for schooling and Dr. Benj. Rowe hired.

The Town Punishes First Case of Graft

Sept. 22, 1742, Special meeting,

"Voted that Moses Blake, Jr shall go to Henery Lamprey and demand 40 shillings in money, which 40 shillings Henery Lamprey took from the Slectmen for to serve as Constable in the year 1741 and did not serve, and if said Lamprey refuse to pay said money, then ye said Blake to prosecute him in the law".

Lamprey refused to pay, for in the Selectmen's account of 1742, we find these items, which show that Lamprey was taken to court and lost his case and did pay the 40 shillings. The Records read —

"Paid to Moses Blake, Jr for going to cortewith henery Lamprey, 3 pounds"

"Received from Henery Lamprey fortey shillings upon the pares account, 2 pounds".

Thus it cost the town 3 pounds to collect 2 pounds, but it showed that the town was alert to prosecute graft.

To Enlarge the Graveyard — Deal with Fluctuating Currency — Evict a Widow

April 2, 1743, Town meeting voted that the selectmen be empowered to buy a half acre of land from Obadiah Johnson at the west end of ye meeting house for use of the parish.

1743, 1744, 1745, Chose committees to take up with Mr. Fogg about the standard of money rising and falling. Jonathan Prescott and Deacon Jonathan Dow the committee in 1743.

Nov. 28, 1744 (special meeting) Voted that Whereas the Widow Elizabeth Flanders having removed into this parish of Kensington, we order you, Moses Blake, Jr, constable, to order this woman to remove out of this parish, according as the law directs.

Hezekiah Blake
James Fogg Selectmen

Purchase of School House Authorized

March 1751, Voted to purchase for the use of the inhabitants west and north of the Meeting House, the dwelling house of Deacon Abraham Moulton, for 26 pounds, with lot of land 36 feet by 30.

A Second and Third Law Suit

1747, The Parish had a second Law-suit. After getting advice from Mr. Parker and Mr. Livingston, a committee made up of Squire Dow, John Fellows, John Chapman, Benj Prescott paid a Deacon Philbrick costs of court coming to 3 pounds and 8 shillings.

1755, There was another case that went to court over the bill of Joseph Pike put in about a hi-way across the Wear estate at Popple Plain. This was the Ebenezer Weare estate, where Herbert Ayers and Walter A. Hilliard now live.

Meeting House to be Finished and Re-Shingled

Sept. 15, 1752, The committee chosen by this parish to finish the meeting house have examined the roof and find the shingles defective, and we think proper that the parish should pass a vote if they think best to shingle it.

Sept. 25, 1752 (special meeting) Voted that the selectmen raise the sum of 100 pounds, old tenor, to defray the expenses of new shingling the meeting house, and also to make two windows in the back part of the pulpit.

Finances and Expenses, 1737-1762

(Taken from the First Selectmen's Book)

The first act of the first town meeting of Kensington in 1737 was to establish the taxes to be raised. "The ministers rate" of 121 pounds, ten shillings, six pence. The Province rate to be raised was 78 pounds, 10 shillings, four pence. All others 106 pounds, 17 shillings and 8 pence. The amounts actually raised and paid out by the Selectmen were: — on the ministers rate 118 pounds; on the province rate 78 pounds, 10 shillings; all others 106 pounds, 17 shillings. Thus the minister's tax appears more easily to have been raised.

First Annual Report of the Selectmen

Jonathan Prescut John Weare Jeams Perkins
Served Select men for the parish of Kensington for the year 1737

The rates We rased	L S D
The ministers rate	121.10. 6
The provance rate	078.10. 4
The Gift rate	106.17. 8
	306.18. 6
Paid out	
The ministers rate	118.00.
the provance rate	052.08.
the Gift rate	100.00.00

Taken out of the rate by the line	008.19.03
Elihu Chases two rates taken out	003.06.0
men over ratted	000.17.07
paid to Decon Molton	009.14.0
parish Books	001.15.06
mending of the meating house Glass	000.14.06
to Ezekiel Dow for making the rates	001.10.00
paid to John Swain	002.10.0
for the select mens service	006.05.00
to Deacon Molton	002.00.00
In the Colect mans hands	002.16.10

1739 Paid for building a Pound, 1 pound, 1 shilling, 10 pence
1739 Paid for hyways

To Deacon Molton	25 Pounds
To Obadaih Johnson	10 "
To " "	24 lbs, 1 s, 4 pence

1740 — Pays John Green for killing a wolfe, one lb.
James Fogg for 2 staves for ye tithing men, 4 shillings
Selectmen for going to legislature with petition that town be allowed to send representative, one lb.
Thomas Knowlton, for way across his part of Hogpen Farm to the Meeting House 7 pounds
Elihu Chase for way across his part of Hogpen farm to ye Meeting House 8 pounds
James Fogg paid 4 shillings for making two staves for the tything men.
Daniel Weare paid 10 shillings for swearing town officers.
Ezekiel Dow for writing 8 shillings.

1741

I give here the account entire for the year. It is a good specimen page from the Selectmen's Book of 1737-1762. An interesting item is the paying back to Constable Moses Blake, Jr., 3 pounds counterfeit money given him by someone paying their rates.

Kensington, March 3, 1741
We Abraham Molton Ebenezer Brown Jeremiah Esman
being Chosen select men for the parish of Kensington

having received of the old select men	L S D
money that was raised in the year 1740	4-15-6
received in money of the Constable	9-19-0

paid to the old selectmen for their services 2-10-0
money we received of Ezekiel Dow which ——
fine from them that were chosen constables 10- 0-0
paid to Ebenezer Dow for the hire for hiway 0-10-0
paid William Evanes for sweeping the meeting-house and for his house for school 1-10-0
paid to William Evans for old Select expenses 0- 7-6
for other expenses of Evans 0- 7-7
payed to Decan Weare for saring officers 0-10-6
Payed in money to James Perkins 5- 0-0
payed in money to the constable for his service 7- 0-0
payed to Robert Row in money that he overpaid 1- 0-0
payed to John Green for a wolf head 1- 0-0
payed in money for mending the meeting house glass 1-10-0
payed to Jonathan Dow in money 0- 1-6
payed to Henry Lampree in money 2- 0-0

An account of the money which was raised in the parish of Kensington by the Select for the year forty one L S D

The first province rate 108.04.2
The second province rate 123.12.0
The ministers rate 139. 8.9
The wood rate 18.17.2
paid to the treashurer 178.04.0
paid to Mr. Fogg 135. 6.0
paid to Ezekel Dow for his service 42.00.0
paid to Mr. Fogg wood rate 18.17.2
The parish give Benaman Brown his rates 00.14.1
The parish give Ephram Grifons rates 01.05.5
Abolished rates not paid 01.07.9
Three pounds of counterfeit money given to the constable 03.00.0

We the subscribers being chosen by the parish of Kensington to adjust the accompts of the selectmen for the year 1741 accordingly have done it and find in the Selectmens and Constables hands 35.16.2
Remains in Henery Lamprys hands .... 7 . 9.5

Obadiah Johnson
Richard Sanbun

1742 — Paid John Sherburn 16 shillings for mending Meeting House.

1744 — For some reason the year was a very hard one with the town — they voted to raise only 131 pounds, 6 shillings, 2 pence, and of this only raised 48 pounds for Mr. Fogg and 50 pounds for the province and spent nothing on roads or schooling.

1745 — Paid Jonathan Prescott for taking census, 10 pence.

Paid Joshua Bachelder for "hook and stapel" for meeting house, 2 shillings and 8 pence.

1746 — Paid Jonathan Palmer for mending constable's staff, 4 shillings. (This indicates that after the manner of old England, the constable in making rate-collections took his official staff as emblem of authority. To this day, the sergeant-at-arms in legislative bodies carries the official mace.)

This year one school was kept in the Meeting House, and Wm. Evens paid for care of the Meeting therefor.

The town had a case in the "Inferior Court" in June, and paid Mr. Livermore for advice one pound and 4 shillings, and paid Benj. Prescott for attending one pound, and paid for punch for the Grand Jury, two bowls, total one pound and 4 shillings. Query, was this a case of jury-fixing?

1748 — Paid Job Haskell for mending Meeting House glass, 13 shillings.

1749 — Paid Henry Lamprey for killing a wolfe, 4 pounds.

1750 — Paid Deacon Molton for use of his house to keep school, 3 pounds.

Paid Widow Ward for use of her house to keep school, 3 pounds. (The progressive Deacon Moulton had built his new house, opposite Round Hill, and rented his original small house on the Main Road of that day, opposite the present Harry Philbrick home.)

1751 — Payd Committee to finish meeting house, 260 pounds.

1752 — Paid Daniel Blake for 2 wolf's heads, 8 pounds.

Raised for Province school rate 360 pounds.

1754 — Paid Wm. Evens for mending hinges on Meeting House, 6 shillings.

1755 — Paid on new hyways layed out — To Deacon Molton 150 pounds, and smaller sums to Elihu Chase, Jeremiah Green, Obadiah Johnson, Thomas Knowlton, Capt. Page, Ezekiel Eorthen, Moses Cass, Joshua Batchelder. These sums, save with Deacon Moulton, were for making wider established highways.

1756 — French and Indian War was on — the town voted to raise 135 pounds for powder; 57-12-4 for bullets; 4-4-4 for flints. The same to be paid to Mr. Wentworth.

Some "Rates" Released, 1737-1762

Certain men who were living here, at work or living with kin and unable to work, had their "rates" given to them. Others who were overtaxed had the same released. This was all done in open Town Meeting.

1738 — Enoch Sanborn, Capt. Joseph Cass, William Graves, Ephraim Philbrick and John Prescott his "minister's rate."

1740 — John Kimball. 1741 — Benj. Brown and Ephraim Griffin.

1745 — Ebenezer Gove for serving with Capt. Nicholas Gilman. For the same service, Thomas Goordan, Daniel Page, Benj. Kimball and Capt. John Gilman. Israel James on a yoke of oxen he did not have.

1746 — Benj. Grave, Jonathan Cram, Enich Sanborn.

1747 — Because in the army, a son of Mr. Morgan, Joshua Gilman, Samuel Blake, Robert Rowe, Jr., Joseph Wear.

1749 — Because in the army, Joseph Sanborn, Abner Sanborn, Samuel French, Daniel Gilman, Josiah Gilman.

1752 — Over rated, Benj. Cram, Samuel French, John Cram, John Sherburn, Dr. Rowe, John Hutchins, Jonathan Hutchins, Jacob Griffin, Thomas Brown.

1757 — Aged man and widows — Moses Lock, Widow French, Widow Bachelder, Nathan Brown, John Lamprey.

1758 — In the army, Capt. Worthen, Benjamin Magoon, David Green.

1759 — In the army, Joseph Clifford, Dr. Rowe, Jonathan Weare, Obadiah Gove.

1760 — In the army, Samuel Eliot, Sgt. Currier, Benj. Tilton.

1761

Success in the Effort to Attain Full Town Rights

Though for its first quarter century of existence the political life of the town had to deal only with its own affairs, and though there were no newspapers to give contact with the outside world, and trouble with England had not yet appeared, and Parson Fogg's long Sunday interpretations of the Bible were quite sufficient for intellectual interest in religion, yet the Assembly met at Exeter and Portsmouth twice a year, and the town early desired the right of sending its representative.

Aug. 6, 1740, it made its first appeal for that right in the shape of a petition sent by Robert Rowe and Ezekiel Dow, selectmen of that year.

Sept. 22, 1742, the same gentlemen were sent with another petition.

May 1743, a petition was presented to the Assembly for the right, according to a vote at the preceding March meeting.

From time to time other petitions were sent (see N. H. STATE PAPERS, Vol. 9, pp. 455-456). All these petitions were turned down. At last in 1761 the parish was given encouragement to try again, and Dec. 7, 1761 at a special Town Meeting it was again voted to present a petition and send the same by Dr. Benjamin Rowe. This time the petition was granted and the decks cleared to send a representative at the March meeting of 1762, when Capt. Ezekiel Worthen was chosen.

Wages in 1737-1762

Legal money did not start till 1765, before that we have notes of "old tenor" and "new tenor"; it is not easy to determine their value but approximately the following table gives the value of wages and commodities during the period: —

"Wages per day, 10 shillings, worth about 35 cents.
Corn, per bushel, 14 shillings, about 50 cents.
Linen cloth, 11 shillings per yard, near 40 cents.
Soft sope (soap), 2 shillings a quart, 7 cents.
Sugar, 2 shillings per pound, 7 cents.
Molasses, 8 shillings per gallon, 28 cents."

1751 When President John Adams Visited Town

Rev. Jeremiah Fogg married the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Parsons of Salisbury. After Mr. Parsons died his wife came to Kensington to live in the parsonage with her daughter, Mrs. Fogg. Before her marriage Mrs. Parsons was Elizabeth Thompson of Braintree, Mass. And the Thompson family of Braintree and the Adams family of Quincy were acquaintances and friends. Thus it is quite likely that when John Adams in 1751 came into New Hampshire and called at Parson Fogg's in Kensington he was killing two birds with one stone, namely, to see the former Miss Thompson of Braintree and call on the town's pastor, Mr. Fogg.

Writing to David Sewall of his visit in late life John Adams said, "I recollect nothing of my visit to New Hampshire except my call at Parson Fogg's in Kensington where we had a long conversation and especially discussed Mr. Wibrid, the much celebrated for the eloquence of his style, and who later was my minister."

Law Enforcement in Kensington Parish

There were few statutes to be violated between 1737 and 1762, but orders adopted in town meetings or issued by the Selectmen or complaints issued by a Justice of Peace were rigorously enforced.

Evicting Undesirable Residents

One of the early votes of the town of Hampton was to allow no one to reside in the town except by vote of the town. If a settled family brought in any person other than a hired man or woman they must put up a bond to provide for their welfare. That such custom continued in Hampton's daughter town is seen by the following item of record:

"Province of New Hampshire, Kensington, December 21, 1743. To Moses Blake Jr. Constable for the parish above. Said you are hereby required in his majesteys name to warn John Morrel and his family the Son-in-law to Gideon Morrel according to Law to Depart from Residing or Dwelling within this parish within fourteen days and for your so doing this shall be your Sufficient warrant and make return of your so doing within fourteen days to the Subscribers. Given under our hand this twenty first day of December 1743.

(Samuel Page
Selectmen of Kensington (Jonathan Dow
(Philemon Blake"

"Province of New Hampshire: whereas complaint being made to us the subscribers being selectmen of the parish of Kensington John Davis and His wife are come to reside or dwell in this parish not having any authority by the law so to do.

"To Philip Dow, constable for the parish of Kensington, you are hereby required in his majesty's name upon sight hereof forthwith to warn said John Davis and his wife, forthwith to depart from residing or dwelling in any part of this parish as the law directs. Fail not and make return of your doing thereon to us the Subscribers. Dated at Kensington, January 7, 1749 and in the twenty-second year of the reign of our sovereign Lord, King George II.

(Ebenezer Brown
Selectmen (James Prescot
(Ezekiel Worthen"

Punishing Profanity

April 5, 1748, Philip Dow, Constable, complained to Ezekiel Dow, Justice of the Peace, that on the day previous he had heard Caleb Brown take God's name in vain, saying, "By God, I will go on." Which is contrary to the laws of his majesty's province and he asked for a complaint that said Caleb Brown be dealt with as the law directs.

Square Dow issued the complaint as follows: —

"To the sheriff of the Province of New Hampshire his under Sheriff or Deputy or to the Constable of the Parish of Kensington greet-

ing in his majesty's name you or either of you are hereby required to appehend the Body of Caleb Brown of the Parish of said Kensington in said Province and bring him fourthwith before one of Some other of his majesty's Justices to be examined Relating the above complaint and to be proceeded with as law directs. Hereof fail not and make returns of this warrant and of your doings thereon unto such Justice before whom you shall carry him."

A List of Men Who Held Some Town Office, 1737-1762

With the date the same was held

BATCHELDER
John, 1737
Jeremiah, 1743
Samuel, 1746
Simon, 1746
Nathaniel, 1747

BLAKE
Moses, 1737
Philemon, 1738
Moses, Jr., 1739
Hezekiah, 1739
Elisha, 1748
Josiah, 1752
John, 1760
Samuel, 1750

BROWN
Jonathan, 1737
Josiah, 1737
Ebenezar, 1738
Enoch, 1739
Nehemiah, 1739
Stephen, 1739
Benjamin, 1745

CASS
Jonathan, 1737
Moses, 1742
Widow Tabitha, 1762

CHAPMAN
John, 1744

CLIFFORD
Samuel, 1737
Samuel, Jr., 1746
Joseph, 1766

CRAM
Wadleigh, 1737
John, 1737

CLOUGH
Nathan, 1739
William Brown, 1754

CONNOR
George, 1745
Elijah, 1759

CHASE
Elihu, 1737
John, 1757

DEARBORN
Nathaniel, 1744
Benjamin, 1744

DOW
Ezekiel, 1737
John, 1737
Jonathan, 1737
Philip, 1737
Ebenezar, 1739
Nathaniel, 1761
Josiah, 1758

DRAPER
Joseph, 1738

EASTMAN
Jeremiah, 1737
Jeremiah, Jr., 1752

EVENS
William, 1739

FELLOWS
Deacon Jonathan, 1738
Samuel, 1746
Isaac, 1740
John, 1755
Jeremiah, 1761

FOGG
James, 1737
Jeremiah, 1737

GILMAN
Joshua, 1760

GOVE
Ebenezer, 1744

GRAVES
John, 1737

GRIFFIN
Philip, 1737
Jacob, 1737

GREEN
Jeremiah, 1737
John, Jr., 1738
Jonathan, 1738
David, 1740

HEALEY
Nathaniel, 1748

HILLIARD
Joseph Chase, 1746

HOBBS
Stephen, 1738

HUTCHINSON
Timothy, 1737
Joseph, 1747

JAMES
Israel, 1737
Benjamin, 1738
David, 1750

JOHNSON
Obadiah, 1737
Obadiah, Jr., 1750

KNOWLTON
Ebenezar, 1738
Thomas, 1742

LAMPREY
Henry, 1737
Samuel, 1752

LANE
John, 1756
Joseph, 1760

LOCKE
Edward, 1738
Moses, 1760

LOVERING
John, 1743
Ebenezar, 1763

MELCHER
John, 1743
Edward, Young Man

MOULTON
Abraham, 1737
Benjamin, 1749

PAGE
Samuel, 1737
John, 1739
Theophilus, 1740
Benjamin, 1743
James, 1760
Stephen, 1760

PALMER
Jonathan, 1737
Edward, 1738
Philbrick, 1756
Stephen, 1754
Jonathan, Jr., 1758

PERKINS
James, 1738
Jonathan, 1750

PIKE
Joseph, 1738

PRESCOTT
John, 1737
James, 1737
Jonathan, 1737
Benjamin, 1740
Jesse, 1764

PURINGTON
Elijah, 1754
Jonathan, 1758

PULSIPHER
Jonathan, 1738

ROWE
Robert, 1737
Joseph, 1740
Dr. Benjamin, 1750
Jonathan, 1759
Moses, 1745
Benjamin, 1750

SANBORN
Richard, 1737
David, 1738
Abraham, 1738
James, 1742
Henry, 1750
Jeremiah, 1750
Enoch, 1751
Abner, 1754

SHAW
Joseph, 1737
Elijah, 1749
Samuel, 1749
Caleb, 1745
Moses, 1748

SWAIN
Jonathan, 1740
Hezekiah, 1750

TILTON
Joseph, 1740
Sherburn, 1750
John, 1750

TUCK
Edward, 1737
Jesse, 1750
Samuel, 1755

WARD
Shadrach, 1737
Noah, 1739
Abel, 1739

WADLEIGH
Joseph, 1737
Joseph, Jr., 1750

WEARE
John, 1737
Joseph, 1749
Daniel, 1754

WORTHEN
Ezekiel, 1738
Enoch, 1750

The above list shows 53 family names, and a total of some 130 families, counting sons of their fathers who had married as heads of families, even though living with their father in the father's house.

There were a few men who did not hold office, though not many.

CHAPTER 7

POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE TOWN FROM 1762 TO 1865 (103 YEARS) — FULL TOWN RIGHTS SECURED — THE PERIOD OF THE REVOLUTION — PROGRESS FROM CLOSE OF REVOLUTION TO THE CIVIL WAR — KENSINGTON'S PART IN WAR TO SAVE THE UNION — ITEMS FROM THE RECORDS, HABITS AND CUSTOMS, 1762-1865

1762, the Town Assumes Full "Town Rights" in New Hampshire Province

With the election of Capt. Worthen as representative at the March meeting of 1762, the town assumes its full rights as a town in New Hampshire Province. This was a proud day for the town.

In 1614 Capt. John Smith had carefully explored the coast from the Kennebec River in Maine to the mouth of the Merrimac. He had landed at various points, and the report he sent home of the territory was a glowing one.

In 1622 Capt. John Mason and Sir Ferdinand Gorges received a grant of the tract between the Kennebec and the Merrimack and running back to Canada; this he called Laconia, after the name of his company, "The Laconia Trading Company."

The next year a fishing and trading station was set up at Little Harbour, near Portsmouth, and later the same year (1623) another was set up farther up the river at Dover.

In 1629 Capt. Mason had a considerable colony around Portsmouth and Dover and he gave it the name of New Hampshire. Two years later he divided his plantation into the "Upper" and the "Lower" plantations. The "Upper" took in Dover, Durham, etc.; and the "Lower" took in Portsmouth, Rye, Newcastle, Newington, Greenland.

The great immigration from puritan England that came between 1630 and 1639 pressed out upon the North and laid claim to much of the Mason and Gorges grant, laying claim to what is now Hampton, and part of Exeter and Greenland.

In 1636 Massachusetts Bay built a Bound House in Hampton and gave permit to people in Ipswich and Newbury to settle Hampton (Winnicunnet). When they failed to use their grant, Rev. Stephen Bachilir asked it and received it in 1638 and was on the spot in October.

Rev. John Wheelwright had settled at Exeter earlier in the year, on land he bought from the Indians. Thus Hampton was a Massachusetts town, and the General Court at Boston being the only substantial organized governing body, the towns of Exeter, Dover and Portsmouth voluntarily went under the control of that body.

The protest of Mason and Gorges was ignored in London, but in 1679, the heirs of Capt. Mason got the ear of the King and the King's Council recognized his rights and in 1680 made New Hampshire a separate Province with Provincial Government, consisting of a Governor and Council appointed by the Crown and a General Assembly elected by the towns. The first Assembly had three deputies elected from each of the towns of Portsmouth, Dover and Hampton and two elected from Exeter.

It was this same form of Provincial Government that existed in 1762 when Kensington entered, except that the number of deputies had been increased as new towns like Kingston had come in. The Assembly met in spring and fall, and alternated meeting between Portsmouth (Newcastle) and Exeter.

The spring session attended by Capt. Worthen, Kensington's first representative, was held in the old Meeting House in Exeter, just four miles from the Kensington Meeting House.

It appears that the town was much more interested in its own affairs than those of the Province and it did not send a deputy again till 1768, and then not again till 1774.

Kensington Political Acts During the Revolution

April 4, 1774, Capt. Ezekiel Worthen was elected to the regular sessions of the Assembly. This was at a special meeting, as the March meeting had given all its time and attention to four matters, viz — (1) whether to pay Parson Fogg 15 pounds of money annually, or 30 cords of wood; (2) the proper care of Lydia Evans, "a poor person," whether pay a larger stipend to Jonathan Prescutt for caring for her or to pay a sum to her son Willam to care for her; settled by a vote to pay said William 4 shillings a week to care for his mother, giving her all things necessary in health or sickness during her natural life; (3) whether to continue the center grammar school or go back to small schools; (4) the question of mending certain roads. Such were the local matters absorbing the attention of the town in March 1774, when great matters were soon to break.

July 18, 1774, a special meeting was held to take action on the following call sent out by the Assembly: —

> "Whereas the colonies in general upon this continent think it highly expedient and necessary in the present critical and alarming situation of their Publick Affairs, that delegates should be appointed to meet in Philadelphia, the first of September next, to consider, devise means of adjustment, etc., etc."

Therefore, the towns were asked to send deputies to a Provincial Convention for the purpose of choosing delegates to a Continental Congress to be held in Philadelphia.

The town voted not to take any action on the "call," and the Convention of 85 delegates that met at Exeter on July 21, and voted to send Major John Sullivan and Nathaniel Folsom to Philadelphia, had no Kensington representation.

This was, however, the only time that Kensington failed to show a strong support in the battle for Independence; when the call for military action came on Dec. 14, 1774 a Kensington company took the field; and at each of the several Provincial Congresses and Committees of Public Safety choices, the voice of Kensington was always heard.

Kensington Men at Fort William and Mary, Dec. 14, 1774

The part played by the original four towns of New Hampshire in the start of the movement for Independence from Britain has been sadly overlooked. We have not been fairly treated by the historians.

Our sister state of Massachusetts furnished leaders in the agitation for Independence in the persons of Sam Adams and James Otis, and Boston as the great port for New England became the center of military operations, and the first shedding of blood in resistance came at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, but we must not forget that four months earlier the men of southern New Hampshire had made the first move in resistance, and the reason that no blood was shed was because they had outwitted the British.

Four months before Paul Revere and William Dawes rode to alarm the minute men of Lexington and Concord, Paul Revere rode down through Haverhill and Exeter to Portsmouth to warn the people here that the British were sending vessels of war around from Boston to strengthen Fort William and Mary at Newcastle. Aroused by that warning, Major John Sullivan and Capt. John Langdon raised 400 men from around Exeter and Portsmouth, and on the night of Dec. 14, 1774, marched into Fort William and Mary, seized 103 barrels of gunpowder and some small cannon and took them to Durham and hid them, later to send to Cambridge by ox team and be used at Bunker Hill. It was a bloodless victory by Colonial troops because our alert New Hampshire men, warned by Revere, got the jump on the British, and when the war vessels reached Fort William and Mary nothing was left save the big cannon.

Massachusetts furnished men that lighted the fires of agitation, but when it came to action she had no men to match our three "Johns," Sullivan, Stark and Langdon.

Capt. Winthrop Rowe and His Company

Of the Kensington men who marched to Portsmouth, or rather Newcastle, to seize the powder in Fort William and Mary, we know the name of only one, Capt. Winthrop Rowe. Whether Capt. Rowe was at the head of a company of local militia, or whether he was the leading spirit to raise a company at any time, we can not say. In April of the following year, 1775, Capt. Rowe was at Ipswich with another company that he had marched from Kensington. And when the news of Lexington came he entered Parson Fogg's pulpit the following Sunday and announced he was raising a company to march to Cambridge.

The Second Provincial Convention at Exeter

Jan. 16, 1775, Kensington held a special town meeting to choose deputies to the Second Provincial Convention to meet at Exeter, and for the purpose of choosing a Committee to see that the Resolves of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia be carried out. Without debate and by unanimous action the town voted to send delegates, and it chose the following:

Deacon Jonathan Dow	Capt. Ezekiel Worthen	Benj. Rowe, Esq.
Nathaniel Healey, Esq.	Mr. Ebenezer Potter	

As a local committee to see that the Resolves of the Continental Congress be carried out, the town acted with the same unanimity, and chose the following:

Deacon Stephen Page	Major Jone Lane	Jeremiah Bachelder
Abraham Sanborn	Capt. Nathaniel Gove	Capt. Winthrop Rowe
Capt. Ezekiel Worthen	Mr. Jere Fogg	Benjamin Prescott
Moses Shaw	Benj. Rowe, Esq,	

Other Town Meetings

Feb. 20, a meeting was held to act on sending a deputy to the regular Assembly session at Portsmouth. On the question of sending, a poll of the house was demanded, and it voted to send by a vote of 43 to 33. Nathaniel Healey, Esq. was chosen.

This was the radical Assembly that Gov. John Wentworth found against the British and he adjourned it to Sept. 28, and himself retired for safety to Fort William and Mary. When Sept. 28 came things were no better for the British, so he adjourned the Assembly to the following April and had himself taken by a British war vessel to the Isles of Shoals.

The Assembly never met again, and Gov. Wentworth never came back. Thus after 95 years the rule of New Hampshire by a British Provincial government ended.

April 3, 1775, the town held a meeting and voted to pay Mr. John Giddings, 6 lbs. and 6 shillings, as its proportion of the cost of sending Langdon and Sullivan to Philadelphia.

April 21, 1775, at a Meeting the town chose Capt. Ezekiel Worthen, Mr. Ebenezer Potter and Mr. Benjamin Prescott, to attend the *Third Provincial Congress* at Exeter.

The town already had sent a company of men to Ipswich and perhaps to other Massachusetts places, for this meeting instructed Nathaniel Healey, Esq. and Moses Shaw, Jr. to visit the soldiers and see their conditions and report.

May 16, 1775, a Town Meeting voted to send Capt. Ezekiel Worthen to Exeter to the *Fourth Provincial Congress,* there to confer with others as to the best methods to pursue to reconcile Britain with her colonies and to see that she restore to them their rights. It was voted to pay Capt. Worthen 3 shillings per day for a period of six months, if the Convention last that long. Also voted to pay Capt. Rowe and his company for going to Ipswich.

Dec. 16, 1775, a Town Meeting was held to choose a deputy to the *Fifth Provincial Congress* at Exeter on Dec. 21, and to empower the deputy to act with his fellows, if the Continental Congress so advise, in resolving themselves into a House of Representatives.

Action was prompt and unanimous and Capt. Worthen was elected to serve in the "General Congress" at Exeter for the space of one year, and was empowered on his own behalf and that of his constituents to resolve himself with others into a House of Representatives, if the Continental Congress recommend that the Province assume government in any particular form.

Jan. 5, 1776, New Hampshire Becomes the First Independent Colonial Government in America

The Fifth Provincial Congress met at Exeter on Jan. 5, 1776, made up of delegates authorized to resolve it itself into an independent House of Representatives if it were deemed wise and recommended by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. The Continental Congress had so recommended, and the Exeter Congress acted promptly, and there in the old Meeting House there was set up the first Colonial Government in America, and New Hampshire became the first state to step out and go it alone. Capt. Worthen was there as our representative and cast the town's vote for Independence.

During 1776 the only town meetings bearing on the Revolution were those to pay soldiers in the field and provide heifers for meat for the army.

Kensington men were eager to take the field in sufficient numbers that no town action was necessary to raise soldiers, but the March meeting of 1777, had to take action to this end.

Town Meeting Action 1777 to 1783

March 3 and 10, 1777, the town held its meetings to act on regular town business and then met again March 26 to act on matters of the War. March 26, the town selected Capt. Joseph Clifford to have charge of hiring soldiers to fill the town's quota, and it voted that he forthwith hire 20 soldiers to serve for three years or the duration of the war.

It voted appropriations for the campaigns at Ticonderoga, Saratoga and in New York.

It chose Jeremiah Fellows, Isaac Fellows and Deacon Stephen Page, one from each road (north, middle and south), "To set the part the town should do in the number and pay of soldiers for the army."

It directed the selectmen to assess the tax-payers for all necessary expenses.

March 31, another meeting was held to take further action as to raising men and money.

April 3, a meeting empowered Capt. Joseph Clifford to hire soldiers to fill the town's quota and appointed various committees, among them a committee to fix prices of things sold by tevereners so as not to allow the rise.

Another meeting was held May 19, devoted to pay for soldiers who had previously served and those who would serve.

The selectmen kept the receipts of the year, and they show the town did well its part; it made liberal appropriations for gunpowder, bullets and flints; it supplied large quantities of heifers, beef and pork, and paid a goodly number of men for armed service.

Dec. 1, Mr. Ebenezer Potter was chosen the town's representative to the General Court of the state for one year, and it was voted that there be chosen a Town Committee to advise the "worthy representative," the same to consist of five persons owning real estate of 200 lbs or more in each case, adjourned to Feb. 9, 1778.

Feb. 9, 1778, Committee chosen to advise and instruct the "worthy representative to the General Court," as follows:

Capt. Ezekiel Worthen Deacon Jonathan Dow Lieut. Abram Sanborn
Lieut. Jeremiah Bachelder Capt. Joseph Clifford Mr. Joseph Wadleigh
Jonathan Brown Jonathan Bachelder

The Article of Confederation between the several colonies were read and referred to this committee, who reported back, advising that they be accepted and adopted save in two particulars: —

First, the Articles proposed that the quota of soldiers to be furnished by each colony and the proportion of expense to be borne, was according to all WHITE inhabitants. The Committee advised changing it to all FREE inhabitants.

Second, they suggested that "All charges and expenses of the Common Defense and General Welfare of the United States, be borne by each state, in proportion to the value of all lands within each state, granted or surveyed for any purpose, and on such land, buildings, and improvements thereon, stock in trade, money at interest, money invested in land, and all shipping except vessels of war."

The Articles thus amended were adopted unanimously by the town.

June 1, Capt. Worthen was elected to go to Concord to act with other delegates on the Articles of Confederation.

Dec. 14, Mr. Ebenezer Potter was again elected regular representative to the General Court.

During the year special meetings were held, to raise money, soldiers and provide food, on April 6, April 20, May 18, Oct. 5.

Through the years of 1779 to 1783, the actions of 1777 and 1778 were repeated. Several meetings each year to hire soldiers, raise money and provide supplies.

How the Town Met the Hardships of War

Kensington is spoken of in an old Gazeteer in 1775, as "A populous and prosperous town." The same authority puts its population as 900.

The military census of 1776 reports a population of 820, with 161 men between 16 and 50 as available for military service.

R. F. Upton in his "Revolutionary New Hampshire," says that in 1775 there were 200 Quakers in New Hampshire, found for the most part in Dover, Rochester, Kensington, Brentwood and Weare. It may be that the military census did not count Quakers and that, including Quakers, our population was near the round figure mark of 900.

At any rate Kensington was a town well able to furnish men for the army, make liberal contributions of food and supplies, and still carry on at home. It was an intensely patriotic town and had a spirit to do this.

The Town's Refreshing Good Sense in Trying Times

Kensington was somewhat conservative but there was no question of its zeal for independence and throughout the years it showed a fine display of sound good sense. The town officials might spell "salary" as "sallery" but they met their problems with better sense than we can today find in our state or federal legislative halls.

They were called upon to turn abruptly from such questions as mending roads, providing for "a poor person," getting up cord wood for their pastor and where to locate a school house, to take up questions of separating from Britain and fighting a Revolution and setting up a New Nation, and they met it in a most splendid manner.

First they took time for discussion. Town meeting after Town meeting was held.

They called in the best minds they could find in the town, thus filling out Mazzini's great definition of Democracy, viz: "A Government for all by all, under the leadership of the Wisest and Best."

At the March meeting of 1777 the Town Meeting elected a committee called "The Committee of Safety and Instruction." Its purpose was to advise the town meetings and citizens. This Committee was as follows: —

Samuel Tuck	Abraham Sanborn	Nathaniel Weare
Dea. Stephen Page	Enoch Worthen	Jeremiah Bachelder
Jeremiah Dearborn		

They voted separate committees to handle raising of money and to have charge of hiring soldiers.

They pursued the same course when special questions arose, as noted above. Their public business was a serious matter and they gave their best to attend to it. If we had the same interest in civic matters today as was shown by the founders of the Republic our problems would be better solved.

The Inflation of the Currency During the War

The most severe hardship the town endured at home during the war was the inflated and fluctuating currency. There was no established standard by any central government, and separation from Britain made the English standard almost worthless.

Deacon Jerry Fellows bought a new anvil during the war and paid for it the sum of 1500 pounds.

I have before me some bills of Joseph Brown, against his father, Joseph, Sr., from which I quote items to show the inflated currency of the period.

1778,	Joseph Brown, Jr. to Joseph Brown, Sr. 8 months board	384	pounds
	To pastring 2 oxen 5 months and going thru shack	75	"
1779,	To pastring a cow	50	"
	To wintring and sumering a heifer	30	"

1780,	To wintring a horse	540	pounds
	To pastring 2 steers	105	"
	To pastring one cow and thru shack	84	"
	To plowing one day, myself, 2 oxen and a boy	24	"
	To board of Joseph Brown, Sr. for 6 months	288	"

The activities of Kensington men on the battle-field is told in the chapter on Military History.

Kensington a Progressive Town in a Progressive Nation, 1783-1860

No people in all world history have ever achieved so much as the United States of North America achieved between 1783 and 1860. We had won our eight-year fight for independence, during which on the battle-field and at home our people had faced tremendous hardships.

The war over, in 1783 we set ourselves to make ourselves into a nation. We brought under our government all land between Atlantic and Pacific, we established a Constitutional Political Government which was really a government of the people and by the people, we made startling advances in economic, social, religious life, and this notwithstanding we had to fight Great Britain again in 1812, and we did fight Mexico in 1847. In this period of the nation's history Kensington played its full part. We did not suffer from the Revolution as did some towns; our population in 1785 was 798, only a small loss from 1775.

The town took much interest in solving the " Hard Times " that followed the Revolution. October 13, 1785, a town meeting was held and the town voted to send a petition to the General Court by a committee made up of Abraham Sanborn, Isaac Fellows and John Page, asking the General Court to issue paper currency to pay off the state debt.

June 5, 1786, a special Town Meeting was held to act upon articles to open the state's ports to Free Trade, and to ask a state bank be set up, large enough to pay off the state debt, to reduce the costs of court charges, and to act upon some recognition of the services of Gen. Stark. After a long discussion all articles were negatived.

Oct. 30, 1786 at a Special Town Meeting it was voted to send a petition to the General Court by Major Joseph Clifford, Lieut. Nathaniel Weare and Isaac Fellows, to ask an issue of paper currency, " Said currency to answer all public demands and be a tender in cases of suit, and legal to pay payments of land, mortgages etc within the state."

The motion at first carried, was then reconsidered and negatived 28 to 23.

Here we see Kensington was seeking to meet the same situation that prevailed in Massachusetts and which gave rise to Shay's Rebellion the same year.

These town meetings show an intelligent interest in public affairs. In the same way the records show that the town was interested in all efforts to establish a wise political organization in state and nation.

We sent Joseph Brown to the Constitutional Convention of 1783 and Major Jere Fogg to the Constitutional Conventions of 1788 and 1791. And we voted to ratify the Constitution submitted by a vote of 44 to 0, surely a fine record.

Kensington's Great Interest in National Politics

Our ancestors took very seriously their duties as citizens and very faithfully they carried out such duties. In the Democratic town meeting every question affecting the public welfare and involving the spending of public money was thrashed out in public discussion.

Until the Revolution the major part of political interest was in these local affairs; the Revolution and the setting up of a new government made the people nation-conscious.

In 1815, after we had conquered Britain a second time, this nation-consciousness became much increased and national political party lines were soon drawn. Kensington had its stage lines, received papers and news, and after 1803 had the Newburyport Turnpike connecting us with Boston, as well as our close proximity to Exeter and Portsmouth, shire towns of county, and the town soon became keenly interested in national politics and its people sharply divided over national party lines.

National politics were divided between the conservatives who wanted a strong central government at Washington to follow the British idea, and were known as "Federalists." The progressive elements in the nation who followed the ideas of Jefferson, were called the Republican-Democrats.

The town lined up overwhelmingly with the Republican-Democrats. In 1828 when the fight raged around the head of that great, forceful man, Andrew Jackson, the town went far ahead for the Jackson ticket.

By 1832 the Whigs had a strong following in town, and while votes were cast for all four parties, Harrison the Whig carried the town. In the days between 1829 and 1860 every gathering of men in the taverns of Fellows, Eastman, Locke, Brown, and in Col. Blake's store, and in the blacksmith or shoe shop, always brought forth earnest, and sometimes bitter discussion.

And this discussion was intelligent. From the date he opened his store Col. Blake received and sent on subscriptions for the several weekly

papers published in Portsmouth, Concord and Boston, each paper being a violent partisan organ, thus from 1828 on the town was well fortified with political ammunition for discussion of national issues.

In addition the town was a pioneer in the Public Library movement, it incorporated its Social Library in 1798, and it had several volumes of political books which were widely circulated and read, and pamphlets containing the speeches of Clay, Webster, Calhoun and Horace Greeley, were found in many homes.

Those were the days when nation-wide there was intense interest in party politics and so many minor parties sprang up, such as "The Hunkers," "Loco-Focos," "Barn-Burners," "Know-Nothings," etc.

The only one of these minor parties that secured following was "The Know-Nothings." A branch of that party was organized with over 30 members in the hall over the shop (later store) of Francis Hilliard, in 1855.

In 1856 this group became "Free-Soil" and later "Republican." The representative to the legislature was elected in March at the Town Meeting, and thus town-officers were nominated by national parties, and hot fights were carried out between Whig and Democrat and later Republican and Democrat. Town meetings took two days and sometimes three or even four days. It required a majority to elect, there were no sheet and secret ballots, and many a time 6 or 10 ballots were required to elect a representative or selectman.

And there were no short ballots in those days, democracy was working 100 per cent. I quote from the ballot of 1839, the officials to be elected — Moderator, Town Clerk, Governor, Councillor, Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, Senator, Representative, 3 Selectmen, 2 Auditors, a Tax-collector, 11 highway surveyors, 2 tything men, 3 fence viewers, 6 hog-reeves, 4 wood-corders, a culler of staves, a pound keeper, a sealer of weights and measures, a sealer of leather, an agent for surplus revenue, a custodian of the Town House. In addition there was every other year a county sheriff and 5 representatives to Congress, and every four years the president.

The town's 11 Highway districts, later 12, called for sharp discussion and contested elections. Everyone used the roads and many had a grudge against the existing surveyor because he did not get his share of work with oxen and plough, or because his road was not so good as his neighbor's.

In 1839 the legislature passed a law ordering the towns to lay out school districts with proper school houses on the same; this provoked bitter discussion and action. How many districts should there be, what were to be the bounds and where was the school house to be located?

All this called for so much discussion that a separate day was set for the annual school meeting, the Town Meeting was too crowded to attend to it. Thus each district had its miniature town meeting in the "district school meeting."

I note some of the closely contested elections for representative to the legislature, the position of greatest honor and responsibility to be conferred by the town.

1839, Col. John T. Blake against John Nudd was a bitter fight. Blake won 76 to 73, and his election was protested. He sat the spring session but was unseated at the fall session. The fight was renewed in 1840, when Blake won 76 to 72, and again the fight was on in 1841 when Blake increased his lead to 10 votes.

In 1846 the election of representative took 8 ballots and Squire Ira Blake won by a single vote.

In 1847 the vote stood 70 to 70 for 10 ballots, then a man who had not voted made a bet of $2.00 that the election would be decided by one vote, and he voted and gave the election to Elder Julius C. Blodgett by 71 to 70.

In 1852 it took 12 ballots to elect the North Road Selectman, Capt. Bill Wadleigh finally winning out.

The 1851 representative fight between Col. Jerry Poor and Nate Fellows was a classic talked over for many years. Votes in those days were never sold, but candidates could use hard cider and Caldwell rum in plenty. Fellows horsed up a barrel of cider near the Town House where all his followers could wet their whistle. It was a bitter fight and lasted all day, many ballots being taken. Col. Poor was a large man, and in the old training days was a champion wrestler. Nate Fellows was also a tough customer in a rough and tumble scrap, and partisans of each man urged his leader to a fight between the leaders, but this did not develop and Col. Poor finally won by 78 to 76, the change of a single ballot.

The Intellectual Side of Religion in the Period

Parson Fogg had been an Arminian in theology and the several Councils in 1789 that wrangled over his views had brought a division of people so sharply divided that the vote to unseat Parson Fogg was carried only by 52 to 50 by the Orthodox parish.

Such a bulk of liberal views laid the way for a strong following of the Unitarians and Universalists in town. Then the Orthodox Evangalicals were again divided by the "Christian-Baptists" of Aaron Jones and Elias Smith, elders and founders of the sect. And the Quakers

remained active, Stephen Green being one of the official board of the meeting in Amesbury. Other families attended the Seabrook meeting.

People were so intensely interested in their own sect, and had so well in mind the theological difference of their sect from the other, that the intellectual side of religion was an active thing in Kensington.

Thus in Kensington, the two sole realms of intellectual activity in earlier New England, Religion and Politics, had fullest sway.

Frequent visits of leaders of the five denominations, each inciting his following to hold fast to their peculiar views, and furnishing ammunition for argument, made theology a subject for discussion, almost as active as politics, in tavern, store and shop.

In 1904, I had in my church at Haverhill a woman of 85 years of age, who told me that she and her sisters had been kept awake till the small hours of morning by the theological arguments of their father and mother after each annual visit of Rev. Hosea Ballou. The father was Universalist and the mother Orthodox, and each would contend for right theology till finally they would get so mad they would not longer speak one with the other, and they would turn over, back to back, and go to sleep and allow their children to do the same.

The Energy, Industry and Ability of Our People, 1765-1865

Daniel Webster paid just tribute to the people who lived in New England before 1800, when he said of them: —

> **" They were the people, shrinking from no toil or sacrifice to serve their country, and raise their children to a condition better than their own."**

This sacrificing labors of fathers and mothers of early generations told mightily in America when we became a people independent from the British Empire. Never has there been a people who showed such energy, industry and ability as was found in the American people born between 1765 and 1865. As the Bible says of a certain generation, " There were giants in those days."

And no town in America showed a greater proportion of energetic, industrious and able men, than we find in Kensington between 1765 and 1865.

On Their Farms, in Their Shops, Business and Profession

New England in this period was primarily a nation of farmers. Each family got its living directly from the soil and from their own ingenious and industrious hands. What wonderful men and women they were. The men made everything they needed and the women did the same in the division of labor awarded to them. The way farms were carried on

continued down to the time I had reached my 21 years of age, and hence I know first hand its superiority in industry, frugality and judgement. Were I a man of means I would today buy a farm in Kensington, equip it with the oxen and old-time methods and carry on farming in the old-time way and show to-day how satisfactory and profitable such a form of farm-life would be.

I list here the names of families of farmers in town who lived up to the high standard I speak of. They were the families of Bachelder, Blake, Brown, Chase, Cram, Dearborn, Dow, Fellows, Gove, Hobbs, James, Lamprey, Locke, Lovering, Melcher, Moulton, Page, Palmer, Prescott, Rowe, Sanborn, Shaw, Tilton, Tuck, Wadleigh, Weare, Green, Kimball, Nudd, York, Healey, Worthen, Spalding, Sawyer, Poor, Walton, Mace.

As skilled men of trade we had Page, Clifford, Fellows, whose substantial houses still stand, and whose clocks still tick, monuments to their workmanship. Earlier and for a time we had the families of Pike and Longfellow, skilled workers in fulling and clothier work. We had a goodly group of "smiths," Purington, Stewart, Fellows, Green et al.

John French, trained blacksmith and inventor, made all-metal plows and cultivators, of great value to farmers in our own town and other towns.

In trade and tavern keeping, etc., we find the families of Blake, Eastman, Potter, Brown, Hilliard, Austin, Dow.

In far-seeing business, development of business, fine contributions were made in the families of Blake, Locke, Healey.

Several families developed water power as millwrights, Pike, Page, Tuck, Shaw, Fellows, James, Wood, Blake, Poor, Peveare.

From the old parsonage of Rev. Jeremiah Fogg went forth 10 young men to graduate from Harvard and enter professional life, while the families of Brown, Hilliard, Blodgett, Shaw, Rowe, sent men to college and into professional life.

John T. Blake started the manufacture of boots in 1828, having learned the trade in Boston, and a few years later Charles and Timothy Hilliard did the same on the North Road, so that a Salisbury skipper in 1837 wrote in his diary:

"Kensington is the best place along the coast for the purchase of coarse and fine boots."

Oliver Locke built his tavern in 1825 and 10 years later sold and opened a large hotel in Boston. John D. Locke started as a tin-peddler and became a millionaire manufacturer on Long Island. Major Healey moved to Hampton and became a leading business man.

Kensington's Part in the War to Save the Union

The two horrible wars between the rival states in Europe in less than 25 years, and which in each case embroiled the whole world, bring home to the thoughtful man the tremendous achievement accomplished by the Union armies 1861-1865. The one great aim of that war was as Lincoln so clearly put it "To save the Union." Daniel Webster and Henry Clay were wise and far-seeing men and throughout their public careers they were working to "Save the Union." They did not deserve the denunciations of the radical abolitionists. They were in a position to see the danger of secession and they tried to keep the nation whole.

When the federal Constitution was adopted the Colonies were suspicious of a Central government and the public insisted that the right of seceding be left an open question in the Constitution. As a result it took a Civil War to settle the question. Had secession succeeded, we would have followed Europe and in 500 years time we would have become rival fighting sections rather than a Union of states settling their problems at the ballot box.

Under "Military History" I have told the part our men played in the part of the Army that Wore the Blue and followed Lincoln's Call. Here I note some of the

Civic Acts of the Town

The first town meeting called to meet the war situation was held Sept., 1861. It voted to raise money for the aid of the wife and children under 16 of any man who would enlist. Or to give the same aid to any child or parent who at the time of his enlistment was dependent upon the soldier for support. Voted to raise $300 to carry out the foregoing vote:

At a town meeting August, 1862, voted to pay any volunteer who would enlist, the bounty of $300.

Voted to instruct the Selectmen to raise for the purpose a sum not exceeding $10,000.

Town meeting August 30, 1862, voted to pay $150 to any volunteer.

Voted to raise $1800 for bounties.

Voted to raise not exceeding $2000 for aid to soldier's dependents.

Town meeting October, 1862, voted to pay a bounty of $300 to drafted men or their substitutes.

Town meeting November, 1863, voted to raise $4500 to pay bounties to drafted men or their substitutes. (A month later an additional $850 was raised.)

Town meeting in June, 1864, voted to pay Jim Cilly $50 bounty, voted to pay William Martin $200 bounty for re-enlisting.

Town meeting in August, 1864, voted to pay bounty of $100 — to one year men, $200 — to two year men, $300 — to three year men. Voted to pay to the heirs of dead soldiers any portion of bounty which was due them.

The town could not raise all the money and the men took notes for their bounties which notes were paid to them after the war in instalments. At the close of the war the town had a debt of $16,989.58. Generally, drafted men were able to secure substitutes upon payment of the $300 voted by the town, but in some instances the town had to double this as for instance when it paid $580 each to John Ford, William Brown, John Wechel, John P. M. Green, Charles Rowe. In 1873 the state came to the aid of the towns by reimbursing them $100 on each bounty.

Interesting Items from the Records, 1762-1865

1762, David James, who in 1759 marched over Hoosac Mountain in Massachusetts on his way to the New York campaign, names the large hill in his pasture, "Hoosac Hill."

May 5, 1768, Voted to sell at publick vendue to the highest bidder, four pews, two on the mens' side and two on the womens' side, in the Meeting House. (The old Meeting House, framed in 1732 and finished 1734, was becoming too small.)

March 13, 1771, Meeting adjourned because of cold, to the house of John Blake, inn-holder. (This was a common proceeding, the house in mention is the present home of Leonard Miller.)

May 23, 1772, Joseph Brown seized for non-payment of a note to Timothy Blake Locke and confined in Portsmouth Jail to serve out the following bills against him —

	Pounds	Shillings	Pence
Said note to Locke with acct	3	6	10
Interest 3 years and 6 months		12	10
Writ and service		12	
Extra charges		13	
Capt Daniels for keepim him gaol	1	4	
Benj Ditman for service		12	
Oliver Whipple for drawing papers and searching records etc		14	
Benj Rowe, Esq ordering writ and costs etc	2	11	2

Imprisonment for debt was not uncommon; the last celebrated case of such was when Amos Rowell, returned soldier, was cast into jail at Portsmouth in 1865 for debts his wife had incurred while he was in the

army. He was a sick man with consumption when seized and died shortly after being liberated.

June 21, 1773, Voted that pay for work on the roads shall be, for a man, a yoke of oxen, a plough, two shillings per day, and pay for other utensils accordingly in proportion.

Voted that the selectmen be empowered to purchase from Obadiah Johnson a piece of land adjoining the burying-ground, to enlarge said burying-ground.

Mar. 4, 1782, " Voted to adjourn the meeting half an hour, then to meet at the house of Jacob Worthen, Inn-Keeper."

Mar. 13, 1786, " Voted the selectman buy a new cushion for the minister's pew."

Mar. 12, 1787, " Voted that Deacon Stephen Page, Capt Joseph Hilliard and John Bachelder wait on Rev. Jeremiah Fogg respecting his wood." The Committee reported back to the meeting shortly as follows: — " Reverend Mr. Fogg will accept 20 cords of wood for his wood rate in the future and will give receipts in full for the future and for time past."

" The report being read and considered it was voted to accept the report and that the selectmen act for the present and future accordingly."

(This ended a controversy that had run several years: Mr. Fogg complaining he did not get his wood and the Parish claiming he had not given due receipts for what he had received.)

March 7, 1785, a poll of the House demanded on the question whether to send a representative to the State Assembly. Voted 56 to 52 to send. Moses Shaw elected.

March 13, 1786, Voted to put up to publick vendue the office of constable bid off by Jeremiah Bachelder for 11 shillings. (The constable was the tax collector.)

By vote of 56 to 53 the wood supplied to Reverend Mr. Fogg was cut from 30 to 15 cords per year.

Taxes released on Benj. Connor and Widow Mary Blake.

Oct. 30, 1786, Voted to pay Jude Hall and Jabez Dow for their services in the army during 1777, the same pay as the other soldiers received. (Jude Hall had run away from the home of Philemon Blake where he was a slave to enter the army in 1775, and was at Bunker Hill, and Jabez Dow had been reported a deserter in 1777, and had not been paid with the rest.

Dec. 15, 1788, Warrant to choose five persons of the state, who shall not be Continental senators or representatives of persons holding offices

of profit or trust under the United States, to be electors of President and vice-president of the United States.

John McCleary, John Parker, Nathaniel Folsom received 45 votes each, and Benj. Fellows and Ebenezer Flanders, 46 votes each.

1794, March 3, "That swine may go at large without being yoked."

1794, Dec. 8, "That the intermission between fore and afternoon meetings on each and every Sabbath shall be one hour from the first day of October to the first day of April, and two hours from April first to October first."

1794, Dec. 8, "Each non-commissioned officer and soldier who shall engage as a minute-man, shall receive $9.00 a month, including the wages that are allowed by Congress, if they are called upon to march away. $6.00 shall be advance pay and the rest at end of service."

1794, Dec. 8, "Voted to purchase 18 stands of arms and 18 cartridge boxes."

1795, Mar. 2, "Voted that hogs may go at large, well ringed, without being yoked."

1795, "That Major Nathaniel Healey be our agent for and in behalf of the town, to act in all cases and matters which may be brought against the town."

1804, The town voted a bounty of 12½ cents on crows at March meeting.

1805, The town on March 2, voted the same bounty for 2 months following the Town Meeting of that date.

1815, Mar. 14, Voted that Samuel Tuck, Jeremiah Sanborn and Michael Gove be, and hereby are, chosen as a committee and appointed to take care and see that no dogs make disturbance in the Congregational Meeting House on Sundays.

1817, Mar. 24, Voted that the map of the state of New Hampshire belonging to the town, be deposited at the Town Clerk's office, and be open to the inspection of the inhabitants when requested.

A copy of this 1815 map is hung in the Court House at Concord.

March 1829, Appropriations. For support of the poor, $700. For schools, $350.00. (Thus the poor received just double the amount spent on education.)

March 1851, Voted that the selectmen shall trim the young pine in the old burying ground and cut out any not straight.

March 1855, Raised $918.52 for support of the poor, viz Samuel Tuck who is crazy and Betty Page, Lois Peveare, Lucy Weymouth, Sally Rowe, John Weymouth, who are poor persons.

Voted to pay Henry Trod for boarding and clothing Sylvester German, a child of Arabella A. German, wife of said Trod, to save the town harmless and free of all expense till said Sylvester Trod is 21 years of age, the sum of $94.27. (The child was an illegitimate son of Arabella before she married Trod.)

1855 report of the Liquor Agent showed the amount paid per barrel for Caldwell's rum, was $19.35.

1856 Report of Liquor Agent

Liquors sold in 1856, two pints of wine. 9 gallons of alcohol. 18½ pints of brandy. 6 gallons of St Crois rum, 12½ gallons of Holland gin, 88 gallons of New England rum, 3½ pints of port wine, all for medicinal purposes. Cyrus D. Wadleigh, Liquor Agent

The Support of the Poor

There were no scruples in those days about printing the names of people aided as poor.

Jonathan Tibbetts who came here from Maine and married a daughter of Betty Cook, and was sent to jail for shooting at her and hitting her baby George, held in her arms. He served 3 years in Concord and learned the trade of stone worker, and in 1868 while drilling a rock in the Rowe pastire, near Shaw's Hill, he ran out of fuse. He then bent tin around his pipe-stem and filled with powder and touched it off. Of course he was blown up with the rock. He was thrown 20 feet and pieces of rock blown through him. He was carried to the Rowe house, laid on the bed. The doctor came and said nothing could be done for him, but after a week of unconsciousness he aroused and refused to die. He had a large family and he could not longer care for them and it cost the town over $2500 dollars during a period of many years.

Tibbetts and his four sons were all in the Civil War.

Cost of Burying Betty Page

Betty Page, an old lady boarded by the town many years, cost the following for her last sickness and funeral:

Paid Vina Ramsdell and Mrs. Elizabeth Page for nursing her	1.43
" Stephen Chase for driving the hearse	.67
" Dan Willey for digging the grave	.75
" J. W. Brown for burying her	.50
" J. P. Lamprey for grave cloths and getting the coffin	1.00
For coffin and other expenses	3.69
	8.04

Building the Town Hall, 1846

The Public Buildings that have been built by the town have been: —

The First Meeting House, raised June 25, 1732; finished and first used Feb. 1734.

The larger Colonial Meeting House, built 1771.

A group of several little red school houses scattered along the several roads and a 20 by 20 foot grammar school near the Meeting House.

The three 20 by 20 feet school houses built in 1798.

The Union Meeting House built in 1839.

The Brick school house which displaced one of the 1798 school houses, in 1842.

The Town Hall, built 1846.

The East and West school houses built in 1873 to displace the other two of the 1798 buildings.

The other Meeting Houses and Churches in town have been built by their own private religious societies.

The building of the Union Meeting House and of the two that preceded it is told in the chapter on "Religious History," as is also told the building of the other Meeting Houses by their societies.

The building of the school houses is told in the chapter on "Schools and Education." Here we give an account of the building of the one entirely public building built in our period from money raised by taxation, viz: The Town Hall.

April 1846, a special Town Meeting was held to see if the town would build a town house, to see what use would be made with piles of lumber from the old Meeting House and to authorize the Selectmen to hire a committee for the same.

A previous meeting had authorized the Selectmen to pay to the pew owners the sums due them under the appraisal of a disinterested committee.

It was voted a committee of five be appointed to report a plan for a Town House immediately. J. B. Sanborn, D. T. Blake, J. W. Shaw, Jere Blake, and J. Page were appointed. They evidently had their plan all ready for the meeting immediately voted to build a Town House according to the plan submitted and to work in all the timber and boards from the old Meeting House that were found suitable by the building committee of Joiners.

Voted to authorize the Selectmen "To hire $300 toward paying the costs of building the Town House."

Josiah T. Blake, Jonathan Palmer, and William Row, were appointed the building committee.

Voted to under pin the Town House with stone from the old Meeting House. John W. Shaw and Stephen Brown did the work for $16.

Voted that the Building Committee purchase two suitable stoves for the Town House.

Voted that the Town House be finished Nov. 1 of the present year.

Voted that the Building Committee sell at auction all timber and boards and other rubbish not suitable for the Town House.

Another meeting was held in August to further instruct the Building Committee. The April and August meetings were held in the Union Meeting House.

The Town Hall was completed in due time. The hall was a single room 30 ft. square, with a partitioned-off room known as "the Selectmen's Room." Its seats were furnished by settees. Total cost $700.

At the time of the annual town meeting the floor settees were removed save along the sides which were left for the older men, while the 170 voters stood up and thronged the sawdust covered floors, and small boys, like myself, edged their way in and out of the crowded space, and the bigger boys moved around in like manner, selling cigars, oranges, and cornballs. In those days it was a great treat for the women and smaller children to have the men come home from town meeting bringing a dozen oranges.

Part of the thirty feet length of the floor had to be taken up by a platform where were seated the Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen, and where the Moderator presided over the ballot box. The room was too small and there was much agitation in the late part of the decade 1865 to 1875. This was renewed in 1880, the Hoosic division urging an addition offering to pay a portion of the cost.

April 1883, a special Town Meeting voted $300 to enlarge the Town Hall and the work was completed and a dedication service took place in December, at which Rev. George Osgood delivered an historic address.

Some years later, another addition, the present kitchen and back rooms were built, so that now we have the ample and neat Hall that serves all purposes of a public nature.

Habits and Customs, 1762-1865

The life of the people between 1762 and the end of the Revolution has been already quite fully treated, here we would gather up the record of such various matters as gives us further insight into the lives of our people during the period between the end of the Revolution and the end of the Civil War.

Kensington's One Case of Witchcraft

Around 1790 occurred an incident that revived talk in some circles as to whether there was anything to witchcraft. Benjaman Moulton, who was born May 23, 1753, married Mary Sanborn, and died 1819, was living on Red Oak Ridge, and went through the present Dearborn Road, then a private way, on horseback to come round to Gove's Hill and get a pair of pigs. Having secured them, he put them in his saddle bags, and rode back.

A short way in from the Stumpfield Road, in a small house, lived an old woman, called "Old Miss Brown." She was some of the family of Josiah Brown who had settled at the top of the hill about 1732. She was a poor, haggard old soul and Moulton drove into her yard and talked a while. It was dusk when he got home, he put the pigs in a pen, did his chores and went to bed.

In the morning he went out to feed up, there were no pigs. Later in the day in an attempt to trace them, he found them back in their pen at the Gove farm. He again secured them and took them home with him. There was heated discussion for a long time, as to whether "Miss Brown" was a witch and had bewitched the pigs. Some contended that the pigs found their way home, others said Moulton must have had too much cider and forgot to take them, some hinted Gove had visited the Moulton pen and took them back, but a substantial number of townspeople insisted the pigs were bewitched.

Elijah Connor's Failure to Get a License — 1794

Elijah and John Connor, sons of George Connor, living at the foot of Connor Hill, became well known characters after the Revolution. The boys made great sport of them. Their house had on one side a long roof coming near to the ground and the boys used to climb it and put a board over the chimney.

In 1794 Elijah applied for a license to retail liquor. An interesting document is the paper of March 10, 1794, signed by 25 of the best citizens, protesting such license and denouncing Elijah as lazy, useless and unfit for such a license.

The protest availed. Sixty years later Lucy Marm Weymouth, widow of John, sold rum in the same spot and as a lad I used to hear of the "high jinks" the men had at the place. She carried on for near 10 years till she died.

Kensington Mathematical Marvel — 1811

Who he was we know not, but Ensign John Blake notes under date of June 12, 1811, as follows: —

"Last Sept. a boy 6 years old and without knowledge of Arithmetic answered the following questions in half a minute on each question.

1 — I have a field with 77 rows of corn, 66 hills in a row, 5 ears in a hill, each ear having 5 rows of kernals of 17 each, how many kernals on the piece? Answer, 2,159,850.

2 — In 46 years how many seconds? Answer, 1,450,656,000."

Two Early Barn "Raisings"

One was that of the barn of Lieut. Enoch Worthen. Either just before or just after the Revolution. The barn was 72 feet long and Worthen had hued the plates from single trees 72 feet in length.

The other was the barn of Samuel Tucke around 1812. This was the first barn built in town with the floor running lengthwise. The novelty brought over 300 men to the raising. It was a pretty gay day and the old tradition was that when the 300 ended their work and started home the entire group did not furnish a man who started in the right direction.

From the Account of Caleb Hodgdon, Shoemaker, 1814-1824

Caleb Hodgdon, son of Hanson and a soldier in the 1812 War, carried on shoemaking and cobbling in a shop that stood on the Hodgdon place that burned in 1830, now the homestead of George Eastman. After its burning, his widow Sally and her children, Alexander, William, George, Porter, Warren and Annie, lived on Shaw's Hill for near three years, and then came to Trundle Bed Lane and bought from Stephen Chase the site and an old house, to which they moved a cider mill bought of Chase and made into the present summer home of Rev. Roland D. Sawyer.

Caleb Hodgdon was a good workman and his Account Book shows the prices he received for work. His book is carefully kept and in the hand of a good penman.

Making a pair of women's pumps, finding material	.65 cents
Making a pair of women's shoes, finding material	$1.25
Tapping a pair of women's shoes	.33 cents
Tapping a pair of men's shoes	.50 cents
Paid for hemlock bark for his tannery	$5.00
Making men's cowhide boots	$1.67
Working on shoes by the day	.83 cents

Things Mr. Hodgdon bought, included the following:

Veal at 5 cents a pound; white beans at 5 cents a quart; potatoes at 40 cents a bushel; sugar at 17 cents a pound; molasses at 21 cents a quart.

Mr. Hodgdon owned a horse for his farm work but did not own a wagon for driving purposes. These he hired from Shaw's Hill, and paid the following rates:

Wagon around town, 12 cents; wagon to Exeter, 16 cents; wagon to the marsh, 20 cents; wagon to Newburyport, 33 cents.

Use shays, to Exeter, 33 cents; to Newburyport, 72 cents.

The shays were then a mark of aristocracy, only the well-to-do owned them, and they paid a special tax as an auto does now, this tax being $2.00 and $3.00 at different years.

The following list of patrons of Mr. Hodgdon gives us a good list of people living on the North side of the town.

Phinehas Felch	Betsy Cook	Charles Hilliard
Jonathan Tilton	George James	Ezra Chase
Nathaniel Bickford	Joseph Perveare	Thomas Rand
Jeremiah Dow	Smith Lamprey	Stephen Chase
Jonathan James	Joseph O. Osgood	Jeremiah Sanborn
Abraham Tilton	John French	Moses James
Simon Prescott	Nathaniel Eastman	Samuel Dearborn
Timothy Gridley	Ira Blake	John Leavett
Oliber Towle	Jude Hall of Exeter	Jonathan Hilliard
Charles Barstow	Benjamin Ricker	Jonathan Fellows
Edmund Pearson	Josiah Blake	Samuel Hobbs
Nathan Fellows	David Prescott	Hilliard Sanborn
Joseph C. Hilliard	Moses Rowe	Eunice George
Thomas Kimball	Elizabeth Osgood	Sarach McClimtock
John Gilman	Noah Hobbes	Benjamin Rowe
Levy Vesey	Elijah Shaw	Abagail Johnson
John Potter	John Blaisdell	Joseph Wadleigh
Ephriam Moulton	Samuel Lamprey	Samuel Dearborn
Benjamin Connor	Caleb Brown	

Harriet Livermore in Kensington

Harriet Livermore and Nancy Towle were two forceful women preachers in early days, whose travels took them thousands of miles. Miss Livermore came here from school in Vermont, was converted in the original " Christian " meeting house, and wrote her first book here.

She was the austere aunt of whom the poet Whittier spoke in his poem " Snow Bound." She was baptized in the old Fellows Mill Pond, just below the home of Harry Philbrick. The baptism must have been in the Winter season but cutting through the ice for Baptism was not an unusual thing and the stern and hardy Harriet would not shrink

from it. The late Rev. George Osgood said he had a memory of seeing her go by in her sleigh on her way to Baptism. An excellent portrait of Miss Livermore appears in some editions of Whittier's Poems.

The Blake Store, from 1826

The first store kept in town was on Red Oak Ridge by Daniel Blake, son of Moses Blake, Jr., in 1752. It only lasted 14 months. Later stores were kept on South Road, by the widow of Major Fogg in the old parsonage, by the Locke family, and around 1790 by Widow Johnson in a part of the present home of Nellie Hilliard and Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Prescott.

Where Miss Warner now lives was owned by David Stewart at the same time, who had a blacksmith shop near his house. On the opposite side of the road stood a shop and a tan shed built and used by Timothy Blake Locke who had built the house.

The Stewart property was bought by Hezekiah Blake of Stumpfield and his grandson, Philemon Blake, moved there and opened a store around 1826, and the next year, 1827, the Widow Johnson sold her place to Jonathan Hilliard.

Philemon Blake died in 1828, and his brother, John T. Blake, who had been six years in Boston, came home, enlarged the building, put in more goods, and started to make boots in the upper story. The shop stood where the present store of Esther B. Warner stands, was three rooms long and two stories.

This store was the first really well equipped store the town had. Mr. Blake went to Boston on the stage from Newburyport once in two months and bought goods in Boston, which were sent from the Boston store to the wharf by a truckman, then brought down in a coaster to Newburyport or Portsmouth. From Newburyport was a ten mile haul by team. From Portsmouth they were brought to Exeter on a "gun'low" and from Exeter over by oxen. The cost was about the same.

Mr. Blake was a methodical man and some years ago his receipts and accounts were all intact, carefully kept. There was little cash used. People ran an account and settled once a year or sooner, and as much as possible settled with labor or farm produce.

Blake's business in Boots was carried on in much the same manner.

The one cash business was in liquor when sold by the glass, but most of it was sold in bulk. The store was the chief center of liquor sales in bulk, though there were several other places in town licensed to sell spirits and the taverns as well sold by the glass. The amount of liquor

consumed by the 170 men who paid a poll tax was tremendous, and it was only the fact that they worked hard at hand labor that would allow so much drinking without break down in health.

I copy from Mr. Blake's bills of 1828 —

August, Alex. Caldwell and Sons, 120 gallons rum at 33c per gal.
From Boston, 49 gallons of gin
From Boston, 150 gallons of St. Croix rum

The total Blake paid in the month for liquor was $154.63 and the monthly bill to Caldwell was each month 120 gallons (4 barrels) while the Boston or Newburyport bills for gin and St. Croix varied very little.

The Blake store was turned to the hands of Capt. Newell Blake in 1836, as Newell came back from New York City to recover from typhoid fever. Later it went back to Col. Blake, then was between 1850 and 1855 run by John Wadleigh, Mr. Blake having failed in the Boot Business and not being able to have any property in his own name. After Wadleigh went west in 1855, Col. Blake's son Thomas ran the store, then his son George, then Thomas again while George was in the army, and later George again, then Mary Esther Warner, Col. Blake's daughter and the widow of William Warner of Newburyport, and since Mrs. Warner's death in 1912 by her daughter, Esther Blake Warner.

Newspapers Read in Town, 1828-1836

The following named men subscribed the various newspapers named, at the store of Col. Blake between 1828 and 1836. Col. Blake forwarded the money by stage.

John T. Blake, Jerry Poor, Capt. Dow, Ira Blake, Stephen B. Chase, Rufus K. Hilliard.

The papers were, THE AMERICAN TRAVELLER, pub. by Badger and Porter of Boston
THE AMERICAN MANUFACTURER
EXETER NEWS-LETTER
THE MONITOR, Concord, N. H.
MORNING COURIER, Salisbury and Amesbury
NEWBURYPORT DAILY HERALD
THE AMERICAN UNION, 22 School St., Boston
THE AMERICAN BALLOT, 12 Water St., Exeter
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATESMAN

The First Crusade Against Intemperance in Town - 1838

Dr. Benjamin Rush, friend of Franklin and Jefferson, wrote a pamphlet in 1785, urging temperance. His assault being against hard liquors.

The great curse that followed the Revolution was however hard liquor drinking. Inside 10 years following the close of the Revolution,

the city of Newburyport had 12 distilleries making rum from cheap molasses brought from the West Indies island.

John Adams in his diaries notes the sad results of intemperance all over New England. In 1835 S. S. Goodrich (Peter Parley) writes that "Intemperance is the Domestic curse of New England."

The Sons of Temperance was organized to counter-act intemperance in 1842; before this the crusade for temperance was carried on by individuals and unassociated organizations.

The "elders" of the Christian sect, itinerant preachers going from town to town and moving among the common people, were quick to preach against intemperance.

In 1838, the receipts show that Col. John T. Blake, in his store was selling a barrel of rum a week besides several gallons of West Indies rum.

In late January of that year Dr. Robert Forsaith, a local character and veteran of the War of 1812, froze to death while going from the Blake store while drunk. Feb. 2, Elder Mark Fernald preached a red-hot sermon against "RUM" and fiercely attacked the amount of rum sold in town and drunk by its people, and especially "A rum store near the church where two barrels was sold weekly."

The amount, according to receipts, was not quite that, but other places in town sold rum also, and it seems that the town with its 180 voters was drinking around 125 gallons of rum a week, an average of near a gallon per voter.

Thus the Crusade well deserved to be started. And we can well appreciate the victory pean of Hoosac Division in 1870 when it said: —

> "Hoosac Division has 90 members, pledged to abstain from drink and its meetings are well attended . . . . and there is not a store or tavern in the town where liquor is sold."

From the Account Book of John W. Shaw, 1830-1847

John W. Shaw was an active, hard-working farmer of the old school, who took great pride in his farm and homestead on Shaw's Hill, and was an active and respected man in town. He was methodical in his work and methods, and from the Account Books now owned by his grandsons, George B. and Sherman W. Shaw, we take some figures of the date 1830-1847.

1830 Mr. Shaw sold from his farm:

6 lambs for $12.00; steer for butchering, $33.00; 6 pigs, $5.50; To Joseph Moulton, yoke of working oxen, $72.00; To J. T. Blake's store, 12 bushels potatoes at 75c per bu.; another sale of lambs, 7 lambs for $10.50.

Mr. Shaw went with Edmund Rowell of Newton to view premises of Hanson Hodgdon and show bounds of the land, received 25 cents.

He was a good salesman for Rowell took the place, and Mr. Shaw took Mr. Hodgdon and Mr. Rowell to have deed made and to see Ezra Chase about bounds, "gone all day," Rec. $1.00. (Surely this was a modest price for participating in a real estate deal — the day was in May, 1830.)

He did considerable work for the Gilman farm, and the following is the price received for such work: —

Sewing field of barley, 20 cents. Myself and 3 oxen, one day, $1.33. Self and horse harrowing all day, $1.00. Plowing, breaking up, self and one hand and 7 oxen, $4.00.

Plowing half day with one yoke of oxen, for Hanson Hodgdon, 50c.

Mr. Shaw assisted Hanson Hodgdon, the last surviving Revolutionary soldier in town, to get a pension at Concord, he spent two days getting depositions of relatives and county clerk (they are now on file at Concord) and charged $2.50. In this he made trips around town, to Exeter and Dover.

Mr. Shaw settled his father's estate (Elijah Shaw) 1830 and 1831, and carried out the provisions of that interesting will. Elijah Shaw carefully distributed his property among many legatees, and there was careful distribution of hoes, pitchforks, rakes, sheets, pillowcases, etc., etc., showing how the people 100 years ago took careful inventory of all things, down to these of smallest value. Those were the days when people observed the proverbial maxim of Franklin, "See a pin, pick it up."

In 1835 Mr. Shaw moved one barn and built another, he had lumber sawed at John Colcord's in Exeter, and the work was done largely by "Tilton and boy" and "Leavit and boy," who came to work around 4½, 5 and 5½ hours daily.

In late winter of 1847 Daniel McGee came home from Exeter drunk and froze to death on the Main Road, up Amesbury way 100 yards from the turn up Shaw's Hill. Mr. Shaw took charge of the situation, got Mark Wadleigh and David Prescott to help him, Wire Potter to make a box, Ira James to dig the grave, he furnished "horse and wagon to carry the corpse," and gave a half day in attendance. The whole affair cost the town $4.00.

The little book gives a fairly good history of life on Shaw's Hill of the period and lists the people living there and near it.

Considerable cider was sold at $1.00 a barrel. This seems the going price, for in the period Abraham Rowe carried 100 barrels to Newburyport for $1.00 a barrel, delivered. He drove a four-ox team 13

miles. The cider was made in early fall from 26 ox-cart loads of apples from the farm of John Nudd, the same being shaken down from the trees in 4 hours by 4 men. It was evidently a year when apples had little value.

Suits for Damages — 1821 to 1849

Ensign John Blake and John T. Blake were town clerks from 1817 for a great many years, and they left carefully preserved the "writs" filed with them returnable to the Court of Common Pleas which met at Exeter and Portsmouth. No lawyer was at that time necessary and it was the common practice, to bring men who were in debt in small or large amounts, into this court. And as so much business was done by giving notes or in keeping accounts, there were a great many such cases.

There were also various suits for damages, which may have been serious matters then, but to us seem rather amusing.

ROWE VS. ROWE. June 22, 1821 Benjamin Rowe sued his brother Abraham Rowe for 18 months' rent, supplies, labor, etc. Some of the items: —

Rent of East Chamber 18 months, $15.00.
Rent of Middle Back Room, Back Chamber and Garrett, 2 yrs., $10.00.
Rent of shop for Joseph Spokefield and Weare Prescott, $0.67.
To Pine Wood for said shop, $4.00.
To rent of tools and boot trees, $3.00.
To rent of stove, $2.00.
To use of four cider barrels, $0.75.
To use of gun and bayonet, for 1 yr., $1.00.
To upper leather for a pair of shoes, $0.20.
To 3 pecks of potatoes, $0.25.
To 16 pounds of beef at 5 lbs. per $0.80.
To use of my farming tools, $0.60.

JEWELL VS. LOCKE. December 29, 1824, Barnard Jewell of Southhampton sued Oliver Locke for $1000 damage because said Locke "Did in a loud voice falsely and maliciously speak, utter and publish false, scandulous and malicious statements concerning the plaintiff by saying that he, Jewell, had stolen his cap and he would have him in Newburyport jail within two hours."

POTTLE VS. LOCKE. October 10, 1829, Samuel Pottle brought suit for $500 against Oliver Locke, innkeeper, on a plea of trespass that

said Locke did on Sept. 28, with force and arms break and enter into the plaintiff's lot, ten acres more or less and did damage his hay to the value of $50, and did destroy furniture in the plaintiff's house and did greatly injure the peace and quiet of the plaintiff's family especially his child who was dangerously sick.

LOCKE VS. BADGER. September 26, 1836 Oliver Locke brought suit against Jonathan Badger for $1000 because said Badger did " Speak, utter and publish a false, scandulous, malicious statement concerning said Locke, to the effect that said Locke had gone to Canada and bought a span of grey horses, and had paid for them in counterfeit money and had been pursued by a sheriff who had overtaken him in Nottingham or Eppim and Locke had given up the horses and taken back the counterfeit money and paid the sherriff $70 for his trouble."

COLLINS VS. FELLOWS. December 16, 1837 Andrew H. Collins sued Nathan Fellows for $1000, because said Fellows had accused him of the atrocious crime of stealing by stating in the hearing and presence of Divers good citizen of Kensington that said Collins had stolen widow Sukui's chickens and had them for breakfast; said Sukui, meaning Sukui Wadleigh. And he further alleged that said Fellows was not ignorant of the fact but fraudulantly, maliciously and wickedly was striving to injure and blacken and defame the plaintiff's good name and reputation; and that said Fellows had repeated the story at various times in a loud voice in the hearing of Divers good citizens and on certain occasions stated that said Collins had said he did not take the best chickens that widow Sukui had and that on other occasions said Fellows had stated that said Collins had stolen chickens from Phila Brown.

Suits for Debt

These suits give first hand information of prices and customs of their day. A suit of the town of Kingston against the town of Kensington Feb., 1849, to recover payment for maintaining a widow and four minor children whose legal settlement was in Kensington, shows how meager and small was the support given the poor in those days.

The aid ran from Dec. 2, 1848 to Feb. 2, 1849 and the total amount was $24.10. The aid given covered only the following essential items: — Flour, Pork, Molasses, Salt Fish, Meal, Beans, one cord of hard wood, and ⅞ of a cord of pine wood. We note below the items of the month of January: —

Jan.	1	To 28 lbs. Flour, $1.00, 2 qts. molasses 13	$1.13
		" 25 lbs. Meal	.50
	2	" ⅞ Cord of Wood @ 57c per foot	3.99
	6	" 3½ lbs. Pork @ 10c	.35
	10	" 9½ lbs. Pork @ 10c	.95
		" 2 qts. Molasses	.13
	16	" 28 lbs. Flour	1.00
	26	" 28 lbs. Flour	1.00
		" 2 qts. Molasses	.14
		" 3½ lbs. Fish	.10
	30	" ½ Cord Hard Wood	2.00

An Old Time Caucus

(Notice)

The Democratic Republicans of the Town of Kensington are notified to meet at the Inn of Capt. Henry Brown in said Town of Tuesday the third day of Jan. next at six O'clock P.M. to choose two Delegates to attend the Rockingham Counselor District convention, and to choose two Delegates also to attend the Rockingham County Convention to be holden at Epping corner on Tuesday the tenth day of Jan. A.D. 1843 at 10 O'clock A.M. furthermore to choose two Delegates to attend the Senatorial District convention No. 2 to be holden at Goodriches Hotell at Kingston plains on Wednesday, Jan. 4th A.D. 1843, at 10 O'clock A.M.

Kensington Dec. 26th 1842	)	Delegates to Counselor
John French	)	of County Convention
Dearborn T. Blake	)	in 1842

The rates at Capt. Brown's Tavern will be seen by the following bill: —

Kensington March the 6 1845

Addison Stickney Dr to
Capt Henery Brown

to 3 days board at 50 per day	1.50
to Sundays	.40
	1.90

Received Payment

The Famous Brown Quartette

In the days of the greatest activity of the old Christian-Baptist Church a great attraction was the Quartette headed by Deacon John Brown and composed of himself, his son John, and his daughters Irene and Lucy.

Deacon Brown sang heavy bass, John tenor, Irene alto and Lucy treble. Another son, Ira, was good on musical instruments though not a singer and he played for the others to sing. Some people came 10 miles to hear them sing, Dr. Hoyt of Kingston always making the trip when informed they were to sing.

At the Brick School celebration this year (1942) Ernest F. Carter of Dover, who at 90 years of age attended the celebration, coming up on the bus, told interesting reminiscences of the singing of the trio after Deacon Brown died. His memory was of John Brown's very small mouth which was screwed up so that all watched it.

The Deacon Brown family was musical; another daughter, Harriet, sang and his son Emery and his grandson, Asa Warren, both taught music.

John Nudd's Thrifty Farm, 1853

Rockingham County Fair, held annually in Exeter, in 1853, gave second prize for the best farm in the county to John Nudd in stating their decision they said: —

"We visited the farm of John Nudd in Kensington, and we believe nowhere in New Hampshire can there be found a farm where more perfect order and neatness prevails. Every tool was in its place and in perfect order. Every floor swept like a parlor, the cellar, the granary and cow barn neat enough for dining rooms and the work shop well furnished with tools bright and sharp. His working oxen are hard to beat and we should be unwilling to try to tell Mr. Nudd anything about raising a herd of cattle or swine."

John Nudd was the son of Weare Nudd who bought the farm from Benjamin Prescott. John Nudd's sons built homes of their own or moved away and his daughter Betsy married Daniel G. York, whose son, the late John W. York, kept the traditions of the excellence of the farm high, as do Archie and John W. York, son and grandson of John respectively, at the present time.

More marketable produce and stock have been raised and sold from the Nudd-York Farm than from any other farm in town, and probably the excellence of equipment and the care of property and tools which the County Fair found in 1853, has never been excelled on any farm in the Rockingham county.

When N. H. Robie Was 39 Days in Bed on Shaw's Hill

For near 40 years after the Civil War there was no better known man in this section than N. H. Robie of Hampton Falls. "N. H." stood for Nathan Henry, but he ever claimed it stood for "New Hampshire,"

and called himself, when acting as an auctioneer, "New Hampshire Robie."

In 1854 N. H. Robie and Rev. Jeremiah Marsh of Hampton Falls, were returning from a wild animal show at Exeter. The seat not being fastened on it slipped, Robie fell from the wagon and broke both bones of his leg below the knee. He was taken into a house at Shaw's Hill. Dr. Perry was called who set the leg. Robie remained 39 days but one leg was always shorter than the other.

The "Buck and Breck" Flag Raising

(As told by the late Harold F. Blake)

The 1856 political campaign was hotly contested and feelings ran high. Kensington was a Democratic town and its flag raising for Buchanan and Breckenridge was a big event. A large pine main mast from a 100 foot tree with a 60 foot top mast were placed in a hole as deep as a well opposite the present Union Meeting House. The crowd gathered at morning with oxen, ropes and tackle, and pick poles. They were served dinner in the Town Hall by the Democratic women. Franklin Pierce, Gov. Wells, Alvah Woods were present and spoke. I copy below the account of the event written by the late Harold F. Blake: —

"At 2 o'clock all was in readiness for the 'raising.' Every man helping, having been assigned his part, 'Uncle Jerry' Blake, the boss carpenter, who had superintended the 'raising' of many a big barn, being in full charge of this 'raising,' now stepped back a few rods, and after glancing up and down the line — and seeing that every man was waiting the word — said 'Up! up!! up!!! up!!!! Steady! steady!! — hold!' and the massive 'pole' was held, resting on hundreds of pick poles.

"After a moment he ordered the drivers to start up the oxen (six pairs), and as they moved slowly forward they drew the big rope through the tackle blocks, which had been securely fastened to heavy chains anchored at the bottom of the pole, and the butt end of the pole was drawn slowly downward — inch by inch into the place prepared for it — at the same time the 'pick-polers' were told by 'Uncle Jerry' to 'lift her up! up!! up!!!' as the butt slowly, steadily went down, so at the same time, the top continued to rise. The two-score guy ropes which had been attached close to the top of the pole were held by cool-headed and steady-nerved men, and as the monster monarch of the old-growth pine forest — it was said, and never disputed, that this Kensington flag-staff was the largest and tallest ever 'raised' in New Hampshire — gradually neared, and finally standing at the perpendicular, these carefully selected men with the guy ropes held it in place

while the carpenters put in the 25-foot braces and the diggers shoveled in and thoroughly tamped down the dirt. Many a heart, which had been beating anxiously, was lightened, and many a tear of rejoicing was shed by the women folk when it stood alone."

The Fourth of July Picnic, 1859

Until recent years the farmers kept stock and had hired men and pastures had no growth of bushes and scrub trees. On top of Newell's Hill near Pervear Lane was a large, clear, level space of three or four acres on one side of which was a small pine grove. When baseball first came to town 1886 to 1890 we boys went there Sunday afternoons to play baseball. This was a sort of picnic ground and there was held what the older men in our youth called the biggest day in Kensington history. It was the Fourth of July Picnic of 1859. A procession formed at the Town Hall headed by the Kensington Brass Band, marched down the main road and up Pervear Lane to the picnic grounds. There gathered not only the bulk of town but visitors from other towns. Dinner was served on long tables under the trees, music was played by the band, there was much speaking, and from noon to midnight a cannon in charge of Lewis Gove and Frank Lovering made its booms at regular intervals. Fireworks ended the day.

The Kensington Brass Band

Under leadership of John V. Hodgdon, Kensington organized a Brass Band around 1852 which was active till 1861, when many of its members went in the army to be followed the next year by the rest of its members. The members with the instruments they played as given in 1917 by Harold F. Blake and James R. Gray were as follows: —

E-flat Cornet	John V. Hodgdon
B-flat Cornets	Amos Rowell and William F. Blake
Clarinets	William H. Hodgdon and Caleb W. Hodgdon
Tenor Horns	George Blake and James R. Gray
Alto Horns	Harvey D. Sanborn and Jackson Shaw
Post-Horns	Billy Hilton and Stephen H. Brown
Trombone	Thomas H. Blake
Flute	Samuel Lamprey
French Horn	Henry Crosby
Bass Horn	James W. W. Brown
Double Bass Horns	Ferdinand L. Blake and C. E. Batchelder
Cymbals	Frank Tilton
Snare Drum	Henry T. Blake
Bass Drum	Hyla D. Peacock

This band was called out on every big occasion such as the 1856 flag raising and the big Fourth of July celebration in 1859.

In the army Hodgdon was first assigned to Portsmouth Navy Yard and then transferred to Washington where he was made Band Master of the Capitol's Marine Band. Rowell went with Hodgdon, first to Portsmouth and then to Washington and under Hodgdon learned to play the solo parts. Many times President Lincoln listened to Hodgdon and Rowell and Rowell was playing in the orchestra at Ford Theatre the night Lincoln was shot.

James R. Gray was the only out-of-town man in the band, he living in East Kingston. He played in the band from 1854 into 1862 till it disbanded. In 1917 he wrote:

"I well remember the great Kensington picnic of 1859. And how the procession marched from the town hall through the city to Perveare Lane on our way to Newell's Hill, with our band at the head. I remember very distinctly that as we passed Tom Blake's store, we played our favorite march, 'The Norfolk Guard'."

From the Diary of Joseph Weare Brown — 1854-1857

Capt. Joe Brown and his brother, Deacon Stephen Brown, lived on adjoining farms and were great farmers. Joseph Weare Brown, a man much respected in the town and who held many town offices, kept a diary. The volume covering 1854 to 1863 is now owned by his grandson, Ralph B. Fish, and from it I copy some items as follows: —

May 15 of each year, started the drove of cattle for Wilmot, N. H., where one of the older Browns had come into possession of a large pasture. There they were left till Oct. 15. We lads in 1885 would count the drove as it went by in spring and fall.

EXPENSE OF HIS GRANDFATHER'S FUNERAL.

Coffin bought at Newburyport	$7.00
Plate for the same	.75
Robe and kerchief	2.00
Total	$9.75

Fourteen barrels of cider made at Flanders mill, sold at $2.75 per barrel with the barrel.

Dec. 18, 1857, Abel Brown's house burned to the ground. The next day men were cutting shoes from green trees preparatory to hauling a building already bought, and digging cellar for the place to set it. This was the self-reliance of the older days.

Dressed chickens at Woodman's Market in Amesbury, bring 14c a lb.
Yoke of Oxen dressed at 1563 lbs. bring $125.34.
Cider brings $2.75 per barrel.
A dressed steer at 426 brings $25.50.
A dressed cow at 463 lbs. brings $24.31.

Sq. Ira Blake made his grandfather's will. Two weeks after the old man's death Sq. Ira comes over with the will, surveys the land as divided according to the will, makes out the deeds —
Again old-time efficiency and reliance.

The number of cocks of hay cut each day by hand mowing is noted. This was a large hay farm and took many hand-mowers in the days before the machines. Stephen Sawyer who worked several seasons haying for Capt. Joseph Brown, said Capt. Joe said he had some years had 12 and 13 men strike in mowing in line on his large field (The Seabrook Field).

1850-1860 Cost of Living by Brown Diary

Prices of Payments		Prices of Receipts	
Hired man	$10 per month and board	Dressed steer or heifer	6c per lb.
Cutting cord wood	75c pine $1.00 for hard	Dressed ox	5½c " "
Cowhide boots	$4.50	Dressed cow	5c " "
Suit clothes	$10.00	Dressed pig	7c " "
Tea	70c per lb.	Dressed hog	6c " "
Coffee	50c " "	Hard wood, delivered	$6.00 per cord
Sugar, granulated	12c " "	Pine wood, delivered	$4.25 " "
" coffee-crust	10c " "	Corn	75c per bushel
" brown	10c " "	Oats	50c " "
Molasses	8c per qt.	Potatoes	40c " "
Flour	$10.00 per barrel	Apples	$1.50 per barrel

War Time Prices 1862-1865

In this period the wages of the hired man jumped to $18.00 per month. Flour went to $15.00 per barrel, sugar to 29c per lb., molasses to $1.25 a gallon, kerosene to 14c a qt., a suit of clothes to $20.00, price of cutting cord wood to $1.20 for pine and $1.50 for hard.

In receipts the price of wood went to $5.50 and $8.00, good dressed beef to 9 cents, and other things a raise of about 20%.

John French, Inventor and Benefactor

John French who dropped dead the morning Cleveland was elected president (Nov. 4, 1884), was born in 1801. He worked out of town learning his trade of blacksmith, and having spent his early years on the farm, he set to work and invented a wrought-iron mole-board plow.

The settlers used a heavy wooden plow, made of oak frame and tough walnut-tree (hickory) mole-board. Those who could afford it had the smith put on an iron or steel point.

French met the usual obstacles of an inventor but around 1835 he had a good substantial all-steel plow on the market. This he improved from time to time and for many years made plows in the long shop on the present George Weare farm, making about 200 a year.

In 1847 French made the first steel tooth cultivator used in town. It had five teeth, each a small plow point. Before that the farmers used an all-wood cultivator, it being made in the shape of the letter " A ", oak frame with whittled hickory harrow teeth of wood. Even in the decade 1880-1890 some of those old wooden cultivators were used.

Around 1885 when I first went to aid the farmers by dropping corn there was sharp discussion whether the " French " plow was better than a new plow that had been invented by a North Hampton man. Newell Healey, who was my mentor in wisdom, still stuck to the " French " plow. As the farmers wrestled with our stony soil, it must be admitted that John French with his all-metal plow and cultivator, became their greatest benefactor.

Some Items of News from Exeter News-Letter

(The NEWS-LETTER first appeared May 10, 1831. To 1865 it is largely a weekly with news clipped from city papers, but some local items appeared, some of which we copy.)

1831, May 10, Joseph Blake of Epping, whose ancestors went from Kensington, is robbed on the highway.

1833, Nov. 19, Sussana Sanborn dies, age 72.

1834, Jan. 21, Jephthah Spalding dies, age 79.

1846, Jan. 5, Mary Ann Rowe dies, age 54.

Oct. 12, Josiah Sanborn dies, age 41.

1854, Sept., A branch of Know Nothing Party formed in Hilliard's Hall.

1855, Jan. 22, Capt. Stephen Brown, who led the company to Portsmouth in 1812, dies, age 76. Local delegate sent to Know Nothing Convention.

Feb., Henry Dow, now in Exeter, sells buildings built in 1852. Ezra Chase wants to rent or sell. Betsy Eastman's estate settled.

1855, July, George H. A. Brown's shoe shop broken into. $30 reward offered.

Dec., Mary Ann Walton dies. Sally Stevens estate settled.

May, Green Brown, Miss Abagail Bachelder die; the latter age 75.

1856, May, Town votes 88 for Fremont to 61 for Buchanan. Amos Nudd will sell and move West. Hannah, wife of Capt. Henry Brown, dies, age 56.

1857, Edmund Rowell will sell the estate he bought 1830 from Hanson Hodgdon; 60 acres in the place. Town has 5 deaths in the year.

1858, Widow Polly Spalding (widow of Charles) sells her personal property at auction and leases her farm for 5 years to Calvin Sawyer of Plaistow. The town has 6 deaths during the year.

1859, Sept., Widow Betsy Fellows dies, age 64.

1860, Jan. 16, Tabitha, widow of Jeremiah Sanborn, dies, age 82. Henry Dow goes back to Exeter to again open his shoe store after being away sick for near 3 years.

Apr. 2, Deacon John Brown dies, age 80 and 6 months.

1861, Jan. 14, Miss Amanda Fellows, age 16, dies.

July 1, John Philemon Blake thrown from a wagon at East Kingston depot and neck broken.

Nov., Wife of Dr. Williams sells property at auction.

Dec., Maurice Kimball dies, age 55.

1862, Miss Hannah Green dies, age 70. Mehitable Page dies, age 65.

Nov. 3, Rev. Mr. Osgood writes poem on The Tall Pine.

1863, Dr. Akerman dies.

1864, May 16, Abraham Shaw dies, age 75 and 6 mo. Quaker John Dow's daughter Abby dies, age 12; buried in field as Quaker Ed. Gove objects to Dow using the Quaker cemetery in Seabrook, as he has not for some years attended the meetings.

May 27, Sarah Nudd, age 2, dies from eating matches.

CHAPTER 8

FROM THE CLOSE OF THE CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT, 78 YEARS — POST-WAR LIFE, 1865-1895 — TRANSITION PERIOD, 1895-1900 — THE TOWN IN THE NEW CENTURY, 1901-1943

In this chapter the writer discusses the situation from first-hand observation and knowledge; he has been an eye-witness. In that earliest decade that he looked upon with the wide, inquiring eyes of a boy, viz. 1880 to 1890, the soldiers, and the men and women who had lived through the exciting epoch of the Civil War, were all active men, and as they talked with him direct, or as he listened as they talked among themselves, he learned to know and feel the things that happened as though he had been there in person. And then again, as I show below, the life from 1880 to 1895, was an unbroken continuation of the life that had gone before.

Life in the Post Civil War Period, 1865-1895

When Lee surrendered and the "Boys in Blue" returned to their homes a great epoch was marked. The question left open by the makers of the American Constitution, the right of a section or state to secede from the Union, had been settled on the field of Battle. Henceforth we were to be The *United* States in fact. Under God's blessing a war had been won that would keep the Nation whole, and provide that its questions of difference between states should be settled at the bar of reason in the halls of parliament, rather than we should like Europe divide into warring states, perpetually at war with one another.

But this great epoch was political only, life went on in unbroken progress. From the close of the Revolution the nation had in its economic and social life steadily forged ahead. Machinery had been invented to make cotton cloth at Bridgewater and Pawtucket in 1786 and 1790; stage routes and mail carriers came; with them came roads and communication between city and city. The administration of Jefferson, 1803, ended the older dreams of aristocracy in this land, with its dreams of estates after the manner of old England. Our second victory over England in 1815, making us safe from foreign attacks, opened the way for our people to forge ahead by those industrious and frugal traits which made America.

The America that waged the Revolution was a nation of farmers, 97 of every 100 men got the living for themselves and families from the

farms; what trade there was, could be found in a few coast cities where sailing vessels made their ports. Trained lawyers were unknown, there were a few trained doctors and more educated ministers, and a very few college professors; these were the only professions.

What little business there was, was trade by shipping along the coast and confined to a few people. Boston had around 10,000 inhabitants, New York and Philadelphia about the same. Newport and Charleston, S. C., only near 6,000, and Savannah, Providence, Salem, Newburyport, Portsmouth, were all very small cities.

With a second war won and our right to free commerce on the high seas established, we were ready by 1820 to start on our road of destiny. And our road of destiny was to develop along with our farmers, an increasing number of men engaged in business, trade, skilled workers at trades, more doctors, ministers, lawyers, and new professions like teachers, writers, engineers. Our cities were to see new manufacturing plants set up, more stores opened, hotels displacing taverns, better roads between centers, and finally the stagecoach and ox-freight to be displaced by the steam railway. An increasing number of men would gain their living at skilled trade, handicraft, keeping stores, working in factories.

Kensington was to go with the rest of the nation along this road of destiny, and it did its part well.

In 1803 the Newburyport Turnpike was opened and we had but to go there, 10 miles away, to ride into Boston. Thus a young man or woman, son or daughter of farmers of four generations, could get away from the farm and learn a trade or find a position in a business house.

Three children of Hezekiah Blake, born on the Stumpfield farm where their great, great grandfather had settled, seized the opportunity and went to Boston: Lucy to learn the trade of seamstress, John T. to learn the trade of boot-maker, Newell to learn to be a clock-maker.

In 1828 Philemon Blake suddenly died and John T. having learned his trade came to the former Timothy Blake Locke and David Stewart place to start the manufacture of "coarse and fine boots." One of the first young men to work for him was Charles Hilliard, who was alert and ambitious, and in a few years had built himself a little shop, and with his brother Timothy and some hired men, was also a manufacturer.

The Blake and Hilliard establishments had at least 40 men and women working on boots before 1840. Beside this many women "closed in" and did work in their homes. Thus Kensington had a considerable group of boot-workers alongside of its farmers.

The price paid for making up a pair of pegged cow-hide boots was 58 cents per pair. The "fine" boots, made of calf-skin and "fair-

stitched," brought $1.33 per pair for labor. The manufacturer in both instances providing all material. Frank Prescott and Timothy Mahoney, the first working for Hilliard and the latter for Blake, were the most rapid workmen on "coarse" boots and could make 5 and 6 pair a day by working evenings. Blake and Hilliard themselves were the best workmen on "fine" boots and could make about 4 pair a week.

Some 20 years before the War, New England began to make the Irish Brogan. This was a coarse low shoe, lighter and cheaper than the cowhide boot, and our "cordwainers," as shoemakers were called, shifted over to this work. The work was done on low set-down seats with a high bench and headblock. Boy labor was first used on the brogans, where they could prick the holes for the pegs.

Then along came Elias Howe with his sewing machine, and manufacturers in Lynn, and later in Haverhill, had the uppers cut and stitched in their shops in the city, and these were let out with stock for soles and thread and wax, to be made up in small independent shops and sent to the country towns like Kensington, where there were shoemakers. Thus turned work, making of men's slippers, women's slippers and Congress boots, with uppers sewed to the soles rather than pegged, displaced the old-time peg-work.

The men transferred work from pegged brogans and boots to sewed shoes and slippers. When Lyman Blake invented in 1857, his machine to sew the heavy upper of men's shoes to the sole, all save the toe, he started the modern making of men's heavy shoes with sewed soles rather than nailed. McKay improved upon Blake and invented a machine that would sew toe and all, and Blake sold out to him for $40,000, and from that on shoe work was either "Turned Work," the lighter shoes and slippers, or "McKay Work," the heavier men's shoes sewed on the McKay machine. Brockton specialized in McKay work, became the largest "McKay" city in the world, with not a pair of "turned shoes" made there.

Lynn and Haverhill, however, remained "Turned shoe" cities, and in the decade before the start of the War the Brown Brothers of Hampton Falls went to Lynn on the Eastern Division of the Boston and Maine and brought out a load of cases of uppers and soles and thread, and distributed them around Hampton Falls, Seabrook and Kensington, to be made up. Other shoemakers drove into Haverhill with their teams and brought out work.

This mixture of farm life and artisan labor, started 30 years before the War, continued for 30 years after the War ended.

Returning Soldiers Go Back to the Farm or Bench, or Go West to Take up Land

One hundred twenty-five of Kensington's young men had been in the army, 17 had died in action, from wounds and sickness, 8 more came home sickly and died not many years following the close of the War, a total of 25 who made the great sacrifice, paid the supreme price to keep the Union whole.

Of the 100 who returned, around 20 went to other cities or towns, 80 came back to Kensington, about 50 of them shoemakers, 30 of them farmers. Many of these young farmers had sort of lost their place on their fathers' farms by being away, so at least half of them, or 15 strong young veterans, went west to take up their 160 acre "section." Such old established farm families as those by name of Brown, Gove, Wadleigh, Nudd, Sanborn, Tuck, saw young men go to help settle and build up the Great West. The others settled down with their fathers to carry on here in Kensington on the old farms that had been four generations in the family.

The 50 shoemakers set the Springfield muskets in the corner, sent to Haverhill or Lynn for shoes, tied on their aprons and went to work. Never has a disbanded army taken up its task of peaceful pursuit with such energy and interest as did that disbanded army that saved the Union.

We lads of 10 would go into the shops and borrow the old muskets, take off the bayonet and go out hunting for squirrel and bird.

Of course some of the younger men who returned went to the city to learn a trade or go into a business house, but the major part took up life in Kensington, just where they dropped it in 1861 and 1862.

Soon several men from Kensington, Hampton Falls, East Kingston, made weekly or twice-a-week trips to Haverhill to bring out stock to be made up; these were called "freighters" or "expressmen."

Pay for the work ran from $5.00 per case of 60 pair, to $9.00, according to the grade of work. A slow old man would make about 40 cents a day while a young and good workman would make near a dollar.

This turned work was light, boys and girls and women could aid by sewing the shoes. The writer learned to sew at the age of 11 and by the time he was 14 could do as many as a man. That year, 1888, there were in town near 100 men, women and boys and girls working on shoes. One winter it ran to 108.

"Jimmie" Austin, who married Hattie Blake and lived on the old Blake place on East Kingston line, in 1890 put in an Eppler sewing

machine, on which to sew the shoes. With this machine he could make more shoes than could two men by hand, as witness the following item, taken from the EXETER GAZETTE or NEWS-LETTER in 1891: —

> " Between Nov. 1 and May 1, James Austin made 4580 pairs of shoes with the aid of his stitching machine. In the same time, Stephen Sawyer with his son Roland working together, made by hand 60 ' sets ' of 72 pairs per set, or 4320 pairs."

So, with the exception of the loss of many faces, Kensington life continued from 1865 to 1895 as it had been since 1830. Farming and Shoe-making occupied us, the social life flowed on the same, as did religious life. Politics and Religion were the chief topics of interest and discussion. The Post-Civil War period of 30 years saw little change. Times were hard, work was not easy to find, wages were very small. People who could get a little money ahead could get 6 and 7% interest. We lived as we had lived for two generations past.

The Civil War only made an additional subject for conversation, and reminiscences of the army life and battles always provoked keen interest. Civilians and ex-soldiers had their favorite generals and commanders and many a hot argument was waged in the store or home or little shoe-shop as to the relative merits of McClellan, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, with those who had been at the front ever ready to pay tribute to the military genius of Jackson and Lee.

When " Decoration Day " really got under way it had a great influence upon our town and all America, by changing our ideas as to the burying spots where rested our dead. Original New England was puritan, it looked upon any care and attention of the graveyard as bowing to " papacy," and our graveyards were neglected spots.

The G. A. R. changed this. Their decoration and care of the graves of their comrades made us feel a new sense of obligation to care for the graves of ancestors.

A Picture of Kensington Life, 1880-1890

> Well I recall all the old-time places,
> Each thrifty home with historic tree,
> In yard or house, the pleasant faces
> And kindly hearts, that welcomed me.

As a lad of 11 years of age in 1885 I dragged the loafer rake and dropped corn and potatoes for Newell Healey and had him tell me of older days. I watched other farmers for whom my father worked, Capt. Joe Brown, Stephen Green, Capt. Ben Moulton, Jerry Poor. In the shops and at the stores I heard men talk of older days. I went to town meetings and saw and heard farmers come up from farms to vote, as had their ancestors come from the same farms since 1737.

I heard men called by their military titles, gained in training days and the War of 1812. Thus we of the Post-Civil War era grew up having organic and living connection with the Kensington of previous generations. We were well informed of the era in which our grandparents lived and our parents were reared, and we knew the story of the lives of ancestors still further back.

There was charm in the life of that day and it is a sweet occupation to go back and dig out the facts of the life of our town.

There was a charm in the farm-life of those years. Things were being done. One on the farm had kinship with growing cattle and colts, the sleek horses and hard-working oxen. Work was hard and long, from sun-rise to sun-down, but it was leisurely done. The great ambition of all was to do a little more than pay expenses and put some money in the bank.

When it was not planting, or hoeing, or haying, or harvesting, on rainy days the men cut bushes and kept the large pastures good feeding ground for stock. Each winter wood and logs were cut, hauled up to the house and to the mill. Wages were so small and it was so hard to get a dollar that there was a thrill in getting one.

The elder women still gathered their herbs for sickness, dried apples for winter, darned and knit during any spare moments. Reading was scanty but because of this it was highly prized. The District Schools provided good training for life and imparted good foundation education.

There were many side lines that the industrious people pursued, such as binding shoes, braiding palm-leaf hats, even whittling skewer-pins for the butchers for a cent a dozen. In the houses the women spun, knit, sewed, in addition to cooking, cleaning, making butter. Happy lads of prosperous farmers raised their calves into steers. We had the great delight of going in the marsh, of clamming and gunning and going to the beach.

There were some charcoal kilns, and many brickyards to which cord wood cut in winter was hauled.

The fall saw the crops coming in, the annual butchering of the pigs and sometimes of a beef-creature.

Women came in to work for 50 cents a day, men and lads cut cord wood for 60 cents a cord (pine), 80 cents if hard wood.

We knew everybody in the town and near-by towns, we knew their horses, their oxen. We lived in a little world of our own, quite sufficient, and we were happy and at peace with all the world.

And then what neighborly places were the little shoe-shops, or the shoe-making room set apart in the house. We could go from one to

another, discuss work, politics, religion, base-ball, news from the papers or gossip around town. Take up the recent "horse-trading" episodes and see who got "stuck," or make a trade in jack-knives, watches or guns. Tell how many partridges or wood-cock John Eaton had got that fall or how many foxes Joel Hodgdon, George Weare or Al Brewer had shot that winter. And we had two stores, one of them the Post Office, three churches were holding meetings, both the Republican party and the Democratic party were real institutions, the Direct Primary had not been heard of, and intellects could be matched as we argued for our theological or political ideas — Yes, the Post-War days in Kensington were days of busy work and contentment; the memory of them is very sweet to us older people who lived through them.

Civic Affairs, 1865-1895

(The Larger Tax-Payers)

The following is a list of Tax-payers in Kensington in 1865, taking in all who paid a tax of over $60.00 for the year.

John Nudd	$181.54	Michael Gove	$78.62
Jonathan Tuck	129.51	Abel Brown	76.10
Stephen Brown	127.20	William Rowe	75.13
John L. Lamprey	125.00	Thomas C. Shaw	73.09
Heirs of Lewis Gove	123.72	Benjamin F. Lovering	68.24
Heirs of John Brown	112.96	Julius C. Blodgett	67.56
Jeremiah Tilton	110.48	Heirs of Maurice Kimball	66.18
Heirs of Gilman Lamprey	100.23	Heirs of John Tilton	63.63
Benjamin Moulton	97.29	Stephen Green	63.32
Benjamin G. Moulton	93.31	George W. Walton	65.51
Joseph N. Healey	89.95	Theodore K. Mace	61.94
Theophilus H. Kimball	87.35	Charles Hilliard	61.63
Ira Blake	83.86	Polly M. Tilton	60.90
John French	83.71	Weare N. Shaw	60.63
Jonathan Palmer	80.36		

(MAJOR CIVIC PROBLEMS OF THE PERIOD)

To Pay the War Debt. To Have a County Farm Care for the Poor. Whether to Help Finance the Exeter and Salisbury Railroad. As to Buying a New Burying Ground. To Build Two New School Houses in District No. 2. To Print a More Adequate Annual Town Report. To Observe Memorial Day with Town Appropriation. To Enlarge the Town Hall. To Buy a Road Machine. To Set Out Shade Trees. To Protect Town Books, finally to Buy a Fire Proof Safe for the Purpose.

To Pay Bounties for Killing Pests to the Farmers, viz. foxes, crows, hawks and woodchucks. To Establish a Creamery. To Buy Text Books for School Children. To Accept the Public Library Act and Establish a Public Library in Town.

Then there was the annual battle of "Support of the Poor," "Care of Roads," election of town officers, and the biennial election of Representative to the Legislature.

Town reports were studied carefully, money spent for the poor was watched with eagle eye, personal ambitions and support from sections of the town entered into the annual battle as to who would be Town Clerk, Treasurer and Selectmen, and the office of Representative was sought and fences built up long in advance. These brought forth active civic interests as well as the above mentioned "Problems," that received attention in the following order.

THE WAR DEBT. This was over $16,000 and with wages so small and money so hard to get, it took heroic measures and good judgement to take care of the debt, but the town did it well and cheerfully. Fortunately the ex-soldiers to whom much was owing in notes given for bounty did not clog the wheels of town finance by demanding immediate pay, which greatly helped.

THE COUNTY FARM. Other towns were of course in the same boat as Kensington. With the War Debt to be paid, the towns staggered under the care of the poor, some of whom had received aid during the war and were now loathe to earn their own living in full. In 1867 the town voted 41 to 39 to abolish pauper settlements in towns and have it go to the county, and voted 38 to 18 to join other towns in the county in building a County Farm.

THE EXETER AND SALISBURY RAILROAD. Exeter and Amesbury business men worked hard on this project between 1868 and 1875. Charters were taken out at both Boston and Concord. The road was surveyed and ran through Kensington, running through the center of the town along the ridge in the upper part of the late Stephen Sawyer's field, across the road through Poor's Locust pasture, by the site of the home of Jabez Dow of post-Revolutionary days, swinging left going toward Amesbury and crossing the road near Stephen Green's.

Rev. George Osgood was editor of the EXETER NEWS-LETTER from March, 1865 to Sept., 1866, and he advocated the Railroad in the editorial columns, and followed it up by contributed articles after he ceased to be editor.

June 6, 1870, a special town meeting was held and was addressed by Messrs. Bell, Gilman, Currier and Blake of Exeter, and Col. Stone of Newburyport, and the town voted to buy $20,000 worth of stock in the

new railroad if it would set the depot near Stephen Green's, or some point near and west of his house. This would give the town 140 shares. The vote was almost unanimous.

At the March meeting of 1771, another article was in the warrant as to buying additional stock, but it was passed over. Though there seemed little show the road would come after 1875, yet there were many who believed in it and advocated it down to 1885.

BUYING A NEW BURYING GROUND. The "Lower Yard" was never well laid out, it was crowded and many graves unmarked, and a move for a new yard started in March, 1869, when the selectmen were instructed to buy land for the purpose. But the town could never agree on the location and the matter hung fire till George E. Dearborn of Philadelphia, a native of the town, gave the town the 3¼ acres that now made up the addition to the "Lower Yard."

NEW SCHOOL HOUSES IN DISTRICT NO. 2. In 1868 the old peaked roof school houses at Mace's Corner and on South Road were in sad need of repair. Samuel Lamprey, member of the school committee, wrote a blistering attack upon their condition in his annual report. The North Road (District No. 1) had built a new school house, the Brick building in 1842. The matter was a sharp bone of contention till 1873, when after various votes had been made and reconsidered and rescinded, a vote was got through to build two new school houses, with Deacon Stephen Brown as chairman of the committee. Before another meeting could be called Deacon Brown sold both old buildings, snaked them off their lots with large ox-teams and had plots for the new buildings marked out. This was the present East and West school houses and they were built in 1873.

LARGER TOWN REPORTS and APPROPRIATIONS for "Decoration Day" brought some discussion over the matter of expense by the watch-dogs of the town treasury but both received favorable action.

ENLARGING THE TOWN HALL. The growing activities of the Hoosac Division demanded a larger Hall than the old 30 feet square room, less selectmen's room and platform, and they repeatedly asked for an enlarged Hall. They were voted down, but in 1874 were allowed to furnish their own new settees. The Division finally offered to raise money to meet the expense but were again rejected. In 1883 the vote was gotten through to raise $300 and enlarge the Hall.

BUYING A ROAD MACHINE was a moot question for several years; finally favorable action was secured in 1882 and the machine bought in 1883.

SHADE TREES. Mrs. Rosa Akerman who had come back to town was a great lover of trees. She urged action to set out shade trees along

the highway in various places, and especially before the old, dilapidated "Lower Graveyard." When the town would not take action she financed it herself and had these trees set out. However, the selectmen and many citizens rather sulked and did not stop the boys from tearing the same up and destroying her effort.

Later, Mrs. Akerman arose to save the fine old pines in the "Upper Graveyard," when they were first threatened, and she was heart-broken later when pursuant to action by officials of the town, they were removed.

CARE OF THE RECORDS. First action was taken to instruct the Selectmen to gather them together and keep safe, and later an appropriation of $200 was made in the March meeting of 1886 to buy the fire proof safe.

BOUNTIES, CREAMERY, TEXT BOOKS, TOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY. These were all matters that received much Town Meeting attention and outside discussion between 1880 and 1893. From time to time joint town and state action placed bounties on such farmers' pests as hawks, crows and woodchucks.

Town meetings were held to have the town finance putting in a creamery in the middle "eighties" but no favorable action was taken. Selling milk rather than raising stock was becoming of increasing interest to the farmers, but the price received for the milk was very small, 16½ cents for an 8½ quart can, and those who had put in milch cows wanted a creamery where there would be more money for milk produced.

It was 1890 before the town voted to buy the text books for the schools and in 1893 it accepted a Public Library Act and established a Town Public Library, the same being kept with the Ladies Sewing Circle Library in the home of Mrs. Maria Hilliard till in 1895 the town received from Joseph Chase Hilliard its present fine building.

Some Items from Town Records

March 13, 1866 — Voted to instruct the Selectmen to issue bonds for the payment of the town debt.

March 12, 1867 — Voted on the question: "Is it expedient to abolish Pauper Settlements in towns and throw the entire support of Paupers on Counties?" — Yes (41) Nays (39)

— Voted on the question: "Is it expedient to have a County Farm?" — Yeas (38) Nays (18)

— Voted to instruct the Selectmen to make a new Appraisal.

March, 1869 — Voted to instruct the Selectmen to purchase some land suitable for a burying ground.

(This is the first time it appears. It continues to appear from time to time, and from 1882 to 1886 it became an active subject for discussion in the regular town meetings and some special town meetings — see Chapter on Graveyards.)

June 6, 1870 — Voted the town loan its credit for 140 shares of "The Exeter and Salisbury Railroad," the sum not to exceed $20,000.

March 14, 1871 — Voted to indefinitely postpone the eleventh article in the warrant relating to subscribing for stock in the Exeter and Salisbury Railroad.

March, 1872 — Voted not to enlarge the Town House.

March, 1873 — Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to provide a place for the better keeping of the Town Records and that the cost of the same shall not exceed the sum of ten (10) dollars.

March 10, 1874 — Voted to grant Hoosac Division No. 25, the privilege of taking the seats out of the town house, provided they will supply instead suitable settees, the said settees to be the property of the town, to the number of seats taken out.

March 10, 1874 — Voted to instruct the Selectmen to appoint a person to take charge of the Hearse to attend funerals in Town at the expense of the town, out of town, at the expense of person so employing.

March 9, 1875 — Voted the Selectmen be instructed to take measures they may deem proper that all Tax-payers may procure one copy each of the Town Accounts.

March, 1877 — Voted to instruct the Selectmen to take on trial one of Fisher's Road machines and if it proves satisfactory allow them to purchase the same.

March, 1878 — Voted by calling the yeas and nays on the act passed at the Legislature of 1877 in regard to the sale of ales (?) with the following result: Yea — twenty-two, Nay — thirty-three.

1878 Bounties: L. B. Tilton, fox, 50 cents; Howard Wadleigh, 2 foxes, $1.00; J. D. Bartlett, fox, 50 cents; Charles R. Gove, 7 hawks, $1.40; Frank Lovering, 15 hawks, $3.00; Wesley Sawyer, 12 hawks, $1.40; John L. Eaton, 10 hawks, $2.00; Leverett Fellows, 12 hawks, $2.40; John York, Francis Hilliard, J. N. Austin, Joseph Poor, one each; George Weare, two; Frank Wadleigh, 3; Ernest Carter, one.

March, 1879 — Voted not to adopt Art. 5 regulating the sale of cider and lager beer. No — 47 Yes — 43

1880 — Voted to let the dog money remain in the treasury for paying damages done by dogs.

March, 1882 — Voted to instruct the Selectmen to pay $5.00 for Decorating the Graves of Soldiers.

Nov. 8, 1882 — Town votes 29 to 13 to buy a road machine, several times the article has been in the warrant. This is the first time favorable action.

March, 1883 — Voted to purchase the road machine, and that the Selectmen employ an agent to take charge of the same; that said agent shall not be obliged to furnish any team but shall be obliged to take charge of said machine when in use, and keep a correct account of the time it is used in any district.

Voted to purchase new burying ground.

Voted that David Brown, Amos T. Rowe, and Thomas C. Shaw be the committee to purchase and lay out the burying ground.

March, 1883 — Paid bounties on 55 crows and 23 woodchucks killed in 1882.

March, 1884 — Voted to leave it to the Selectmen as to setting out shade trees in front of the lower graveyard. (The Selectmen did not act and Mrs. Rosa Akerman had small maples set out the entire length of the yard. There was some criticism of the type of trees and willful boys thus encouraged destroyed them all within a few years.)

March, 1885 — Voted to purchase three acres of land of James W. W. Brown for a graveyard. Voted the price not to exceed $100 per acre.

1885 — "Poor bill" of Betty Greenleaf and Widow Hilton $97.00.

March, 1886 — Raise $200 to purchase a fireproof safe for the town.

Raise $25 for a set of runners for the hearse.

Voted to establish the town price to pay for horses on the highway at 20 cents per hour for each pair.

March 13, 1888 — Voted to prohibit trout fishing in town till March 13, 1891.

1888 — March Blizzard cost $339.00. "City" district, Stephen Sawyer, surveyor, $23.60. (I earned $1.05. — R. D. S.)

1889 — Voted to raise $500.00 to be laid out by the Committee of the Cemetery.

Voted that the Committee or the Selectmen sell choice of lots. (Later rescinded)

Voted to employ Rev. George Osgood to furnish the town a copy of Deaths and Marriages from records of Rev. Jeremiah Fogg for the sum of $10.

March, 1890 — Raise $200 for further work on the new cemetery.

Raise $25 for Memorial Day.

Passed resolutions thanking George E. Dearborn for the new cemetery and for "The Neat, elegant, and substantial iron fence that is replaced the old, unsightly, stone wall in front of our burying ground."

March, 1890 — Voted to raise $100 to buy text books for the schools.

March, 1891 — Raise $200 to finish work on the New Cemetery.

March, 1892 — Voted to Build a Receiving Tomb in the New Cemetery.

State election, 173 names on check-list: Rev. Luther F. McKinney, Democrat, received 92; Hon. John B. Smith, Republican, received 61; scattering 3 votes.

March, 1893 — Voted to accept provisions of state act to establish a Free Public Library. Raised $25.00 and chose John Adams Blake, Josiah D. Prescott and Miss Sarah A. Green, Trustees. Town to receive $100.00 worth of books from the state. Mrs. A. Marie Hilliard chosen Librarian, salary to be $15.00 per annum. Hours to be same as Ladies Library and books kept in her house.

Voted to raise $200.00 to make further additions to Town Hall. Charles E. Tuck, Oscar W. Brown and Abram Hilliard chosen committee.

The work was done at a cost of $203.22; Oscar W. Brown receiving $68.25 for 39 days of labor at $1.75 and C. E. Tuck receiving $39.00 for 26 days of labor at $1.50; Thomas H. Blake receiving $7.37 for painting and Otis H. Marston for chimney making, $15.75; the rest went for lumber and material. This was the present kitchen and toilet rooms of the Hall.

March, 1894 — Voted to keep library open Wednesday as well as on Saturday.

State vote: Busiel, G. O. P., 85; Harvey O. Kent, Dem., 68; Geo. D. Epps, Populist, 2.

In December the Kensington Social Library incorporated with 9 Trustees.

March, 1895 — Town paid Arthur O. Fuller, atty. of Exeter, $22.00 to prosecute Harry Fellows for running House of Ill Fame on Exeter Lane, called Pond Lily House. This closed this house, which had run some 3 or 4 years.

Some of Bills for Care of the Poor

1867 — Old Zacheus Roberts, who lived in a small house where the East School House now stands, was with his wife too old to longer care for themselves, so the town took charge of them, sold their property and boarded them out. The real estate was later sold by the select-

men at private sale to James W. W. Brown, their personal property was sold at auction, and the following is the pathetic story.

Household goods	$18.75	
Potatoes in ground	1.00	to Susan Chase
Hay to cut	.75	to Jerry Dow

Parker Badger took the pair to board for $3.12 per year; Badger also boarded Lois Peveare for $78.00 per year.

Same year Lucy Weymouth was taken over by the town the same way; her worldly possessions were sold as follows:

Standing grass to Joseph Poor for	$3.00
Her clock to Ira Fellows	1.00
Pasture for a year, Jonathan Palmer	5.00

Abe Eaton boarded her for $147.00 for the year.

1869 — Lucy Weymouth died, funeral expenses as follows:

Elder D. B. Murray for tending funeral	$ 2.00
John Chase for digging grave	2.00
Dr. Perry, medical attention, last sickness	16.50
A. R. Wiggin, robe, coffin and attending	13.50
Daniel E. Palmer, selectman, for looking after matters	1.00
Daniel R. Prescott and A. J. Shaw, selectmen, for looking after matters	2.00

Old Betty Page who died some years earlier had a funeral for less than $12.00.

1869 — S. O. Hull, sick Civil War soldier, and Gardner Green were added to the pauper list.

The smallest "poor bill" came in the year 1892; when the bills were gathered up and paid March, 1893, it was found the "poor bill" of 1892 was $70.70, as follows:

Jeremiah K. Leavitt, soldier	$12.85
Dan Kerr and Mrs. Ben Carr	57.85

Some Town Meeting Sayings

(As remembered from Town Meeting Debates)

"It would be harder to find your conscience than to find a flea's gizzard in Lake Erie," Rev. Jonathan Brown.

"Nobody wants this vote passed except a lot of poor shads."

"This man is as full of ideas as a shad is full of bones."

Social, Cultural and Religious Life During the Period, 1865-1895

Neighborhood calls, Dances, Socials, Card Parties, Huskings, Concerts, Levees, Dramas, Shows, Sewing Circles, Sleigh-rides, The Beach, The Churches, Hoosac Division, The Farmers' Club, Debating Societies, The Grange, Celebrations and Picnics, Revivals and Camp Meetings, Singing Schools.

In this generation the roads were not improved, people had a struggle to make ends meet, life was busy and time for amusement had to be snatched from work when it could be done. Neighbors were friendly and ran in from house to house when they could, they brought mail and news from the "City" when they went to the Post Office. Dances, with an occasional Ball, were held in the Town Hall during winter. Socials at home or at the Town Hall or churches were frequently arranged. There never was a finer social life in this way in any town than Kensington had in the winters of 1876, 1877, 1878. During parts of 1876 and 1878 and all of the winter of 1877 there was the custom of holding socials in the larger homes, to which all denominations were invited and took part, Orthodox, Baptists, Universalists and Unitarians. Families whose homes were small invited the townspeople to the Town Hall when it was their turn. Rev. Mr. Osgood and Rev. Mr. Eldridge and the Division had much to do with these socials. The one held at the home of Mrs. T. K. and Mrs. Ida M. Mace in Feb. 1877 was attended by 125 people with 115 sitting down to an oyster supper; there was a social time, a Temperance Dialogue, marching by couples around the house and dancing. (See News-Letter of March 2, 1877.)

Farmers who loved to play cards visited back and forth in winter, one family going with a sled full from their end of the road to the house at the other end of the road. The writer recalls going with his parents and neighbors to Newell Healey's, tucked into a robe on a traverse-runner sled before he was six years of age, and going to sleep on the sofa while the elders played cards, ate apples and popcorn and drank cider.

In the fall came huskings in the long barns. The women found social life in various sewing circle gatherings. Sleigh-ride parties came when the combination of good sleighing and full moon came together. The Town Hall was the scene of dramas, debating societies, and travelling shows.

Dramas were put on by the Division, the Churches, etc. Comical Brown with his single man show came every year and Dick Martz every two or three years. Each man gave a fine show of sleight-of-hand, singing, music, jokes and burlesque. Around 1870 the town

had a Debating Society to discuss politics, public events and local life. Joseph Weare Brown was president and Stephen C. Sawyer, secretary. Later it became a Farmers' Club and devoted its time entirely to discussing farm problems; here again Mr. Brown was secretary and the most active man.

In summer, especially after haying was done, each family had an all-day picnic at Hampton Beach. Where after long planning the family party with lunch boxes full and bag of hay for the horse spent the day on the sand and rocks and picked sea-moss for puddings the coming winter. This practice finally extended itself to The Annual Farmers Day, where politicians talked to the people in a big tent or at the big hotel. Most every winter a Dancing School and Singing School was put on for a series of 10 or 12 weekly sessions. From before the War the holding of social times called "Levees" ran well down beyond 1870. At these there was a sort of lottery, "grab-bag," dancing, etc. They were put on for the most part by the Universalist Church and while Rev. Roland Connor, a popular young pastor, was pastor over Kensington and Kingston, they reached a high success.

The Revival and Camp Meeting owed their great power to draw, quite as much to the desire for social life as to the interest in religion. These gatherings were emotional outlets for people who lived back from centers of life, and where the women especially, rejoiced in a chance to see and meet people. They were held by some church every winter.

The Baptists held in late 1883 a forty-night series of such meetings conducted by Rev. Mr. Waldron, pastor of the Free-Will Baptists at Amesbury. When they were over the farmers gave Mr. Waldron a large Donation Party and contributed a large load of hay that was hauled to Amesbury for Mr. Waldron's faithful horse that had made the trip to Kensington, six nights a week for seven weeks.

Various major events called forth celebrations and picnics, especially on every fourth year when a president was elected. The biennial election of Representatives called for an oyster supper at the Town Hall with speaking and a dance. And every year, when president was elected, it was a little larger. The Democrats could capture the Representative more often than the Republicans, but the presidential affair went Republican in 1860, 1864, 1868, 1872, 1876, 1880, then came the great day for the Democrats, Cleveland was elected in 1884. The Faithful Democrats for many years had come in, cast their vote, gone back home to wait a few days for the sad news, always the same, Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, Garfield had each time knocked off the Democratic candidate with ease, but in 1884 came the different story, for the first time since Buchanan, a Democrat, was elected. This was followed by

The Great Democratic Celebration of 1884

Feelings had run very high that year. Both parties had raised flag poles and hung out campaign flags 30 by 20 feet, with names of their candidates attached. The Republican flag between Frank Hilliard's store and the Congregational Parsonage, and the Democratic flag between Blake's store and Tom Blake's house. Frank and Rufus Hilliard had charge of the Republican flag and took it in when it rained or too high wind blew, and George Blake and "Doctor" Blake had charge of the Democratic flag.

The party newspapers were claiming a chance of victory during the campaign and Democratic hopes were high. Election night men of both parties rode to Exeter Town Hall where returns coming in by telegraph were read by party leaders. The Hall was crowded, the election was so close that both sides had their chance to cheer favorable returns, and they stuck to the Hall till past 2 A. M. and then went home with everything in doubt. Other states were tabulated, but it was evident the vote in New York state was very, very close, and everything depended on the vote there. The next day newspapers could tell us nothing. It was two or three days before we were certain of results but when results were definitely known and the Democrats found that they had won, plans were laid for a great celebration.

The celebration was an evening affair, a band and torch-light procession started at East Kingston line and headed by Levi B. Tilton as Marshal marched down Gove's Hill and Palmer Lane and up Main Road to Blake's store where a committee headed by "Newt Austin" touched off fireworks. They then went down Round Hill Road to Brick schoolhouse corner and back to the Town Hall where there was a banquet and speaking and music.

Every Democratic home along the way had the windows filled with candles and each such home was cheered by the marchers. Republican homes were dark and gloomy and each such home was booed by the marchers; especially loud were the boos at the home of Charles Tuck in whose windows he allowed to remain the pictures of Blaine and Logan.

"Going in the Marsh"

If the women found social life mixed with labor pleasant in their sewing circles, so did the men find the same in "Going in the marsh." The "marsh-season" followed cutting the English hay, and came in late August or September, and was a very busy time for Kensington people. The almanac was carefully studied, the low run of tides marked out, and the farmers would hire extra help from the shoe mak-

ers, and between two and three o'clock in the morning the road to "Healey's Island" or "Mike's Island" was full of the old farm wagons, packed with men, the mowing kits, lunch boxes and a bag of hay. It was planned to have the horses staked out and be on the marsh with scythes hung and the mowing started at 4 o'clock. There was no stop as long as the dew was on the grass when it would cut fairly easy. After the dew disappeared and mowing stopped, the "cricks" were raked out, the swaths spread; then the teams turned their way homeward, where scythes would be ground ready for another day of mowing. Then followed a day to rake and cock the grass, and then a day to "pole in" and stack. Of course it was hard work, but the tang of the salt air and the fellowship of various groups of workers made it a happy round of labor, and for us boys for whom the work was light, with a chance to go in swimming, look for fish, lobsters, and clams, it was a red letter time.

The influence of the large tract of salt marsh in bringing settlers to ancient Hampton is seen by the following paragraph taken from "The Wonder-Working Providence," by Johnson; that quaint first history of New England reads: —

"About this time (1639) began the town of Hampton, in the county of Norfolk, to have ye foundation stone laid not far from the river Merrimack, as ye great store of salt marsh did entice the people to set down their habitation there, for as yet cows and cattle had not come to this great downfall in price, of which they now have 450 head."

Johnson in another place speaks of the tract as containing 6000 acres, and points out the large number of heads of stock that the Hampton settlement was able to sustain.

Richard LeGallieni, in his article, "Salt Marsh," Harpers Magazine of many years ago, shows us that what attracted Hampton was a great attraction in all the coast settlements. This is also given testimony by Sidney Lanier's poem, "The Marshes of Glynn." Warren Brown, in his history of Hampton Falls, points out the value placed upon the salt marsh, in the period 1840-1880, and he tells of the method of getting the hay. See Vol. II, pages 264-270. Brown lists fifty-one citizens of Kensington owning salt marsh. Many men in Kensington cut at the "Halves" or bought standing salt grass. Up until the time Kensington began to sell milk to go to Lynn and Boston its farmers placed great value upon their salt grass. As feeding the salt hay gave a slight taste to the milk, Lynn and Boston customers objected, and salt hay fell into disrepute. Tracts of marsh that had been carefully divided among sons by their father's will were allowed to stand uncut.

Social Life in the Churches

The Christian Baptists had no settled minister and gave their energy to matters religious with little attention paid to the social side.

Most every winter a series of Revival meetings, and during summer a series of Sunday meetings where Rev. Daniel Pike (Elder Pike) of Newburyport was the most popular preacher.

March 12, 1887, Elder Pike celebrated 50 years in the ministry, and preached at Kensington and his own Church in Newburyport the same day, announcing that he had preached 7800 sermons, delivered 1000 temperance lectures and baptized 900 people.

The Universalist Church, during the pastorate of Rev. Roland Connor, developed a very active social side of its life, and the Congregational Church, during the pastorate of Rev. David Fraser, a young man, did the same. Other pastors were less active, but the Church workers looked well after the social side of life, cultivating such things as were wholesome for young people. The Unitarians, through their connection with Hampton Falls Unitarians, were especially active in putting on dramas, concerts, etc. Hampton Falls had a fine array of talented young people, Ralph, Joseph and Will Cram with Edith (the present Mrs. Edgar Warren), Annie Chandler and Fidele Sanborn, Elvin James Prescott ("Reverend") and some others from the Tilton, Sanborn, Brown and Wadleigh families, together with John Wadleigh and Helen and Isabel, and some of the Universalists, could put on a drama which was rarely equalled by amateur talent.

Hoosac Division and the Grange

These two organizations held the center of social and cultural life through the period, and the Grange still continues.

HOOSAC DIVISION, SONS OF TEMPERANCE, NO. 25

The Sons of Temperance was organized Sept. 29, 1842. It had remarkable growth till the anti-slavery movement pushed temperance reform aside.

Then came the Civil War which further slowed up its work. In 1867 Kensington was one of the first towns of the locality to again take up temperance work and the local Division was organized.

Nov. 14, 1867, the first meeting of Hoosac Division, Sons of Temperance was held in the small Town Hall at Kensington. The Charter members were: Rev. Erasmus D. Eldridge, John W. York, Sylvester N. Hobbs, Henry C. Tuck, Charles E. Tuck, Francis Hilliard, A. Maria Hilliard, Edward J. Blodgett, Emery Brown, Josephine Hilliard, Ann Chase, Mary E. Blake, Carrie C. Dow, Ellen Hilliard, Ellen Wadleigh, Ruth A. Green, Sarah F. Blake, Sarah A. Green.

The first set of officers were: Charles E. Tuck, W. P.; Emery Brown, W. A.; John P. M. Green, R. S.; Daniel E. Palmer, A. R. S.; John W. York, F. S.; Francis Hilliard, T.; Rev. E. E. Eldridge, Chap.; E. J. Blodgett, C.; Sylvester N. Hobbs, A. C.; Benjamin F. Austin, I. S.; Ellery C. Wadleigh, O. S.

The report Nov. 17, 1870, when the order was three years old, showed the prosperous condition by its membership of 90, all active. Its influence in town for good is shown by the same report which stated, THERE IS NOT A STORE OR HOUSE OR TAVERN IN TOWN WHERE LIQUOR IS SOLD.

That this was great progress is noted by an item in THE NEWS-LETTER of Jan. 30, 1874, which says: —

"In this town in 1849 there were 22 rum-shops, 26 drunkards, 7 women who were hard drinkers, and 100 moderate drinkers. Today there is not a rum-shop in town and one sixth of our population over 14 years belongs to Hoosac Division."

From the first the reports show, "Our meetings are well attended and seem designed to improve the moral, social and intellectual life of our people."

The Division sponsored many temperance lectures in the local Town Hall, one of which the writer has ever recalled vividly, though he was only 8 years and 9 months old when he saw and heard it. It was by Rev. Joseph E. Cross of Lynn, Artist-Evangelist. His subject was THE DOWNWARD PATH OF INTEMPERANCE, illustrated by oil paintings and crayon sketches he drew as he talked. It portrayed the rapid downward path of a young lad till he was killed in a runaway team where the horse was goaded to frenzy by his drunken drivers. The artist sketched the young man as his head was dashed against the rock and the red blood spilled over everything, and then the body taken back to his sad parents.

It was given in Kensington and Exeter the last week in November, 1882.

I here give part of an item in the EXETER NEWS-LETTER in 1881 by the late Rev. George Osgood:

"Hoosac Division has saved many homes from sadness and shame, and raised many young men and women to a higher state of intelligence and virtue, and formed many friendships and improved the character of this community. Many noble young men have been true to their pledge and have maintained a higher and happier life than the victim who loses his manhood in drink and dissipation. The man who can learn to overcome one besetting sin like intemperance, may gain force to control his words and actions, thoughts and feelings, and thus

have complete rule over his own spirit and most truly become temperate in all things."

KENSINGTON GRANGE, NO. 173, P. OF H.

Kensington Grange, No. 173, P. of H., was organized February 23, 1892, with 36 charter members. Harrison Rowe was the first master, John W. York, secretary, and Sarah A. Green, lecturer. In 1906 the Grange moved into its new hall, the old Christian meeting-house, which was dedicated as John F. Gill Hall in June of that year. Kensington narrowly missed the honor of having the first Grange in the state. August 9, 1873, Deputy Enos Thompson, of Vermont, came to the Farmers' Club in Kensington and explained the order and sought to organize. T. K. Mace, a vice-president of the club, presided, and Joseph W. Brown was secretary. Persons were present from Exeter, North Hampton and one from Maine. Hon. John D. Lyman, of Exeter, was present and urged organization, as did a Mr. Austin, of Kensington; organization was opposed by a Mr. Shaw, of Kensington, and a Mr. French, of North Hampton, and a Mr. Hunnewell, of Exeter. Kensington refusing to organize, Mr. Lyman invited Deputy Thompson to Exeter, and there the Gilman Grange with 17 members was organized as the first Grange in the state and with Mr. Lyman as Master. At that time there were 25 Granges in Vermont, and one in Massachusetts.

After the failure of the Farmers' Club to resolve itself into a Grange, August 9, 1873, nothing was done till 1892.

That year Harrison Rowe was our Representative at Concord and he boarded at the same house as did T. H. White of Harrisville, an active Grange worker. He convinced Mr. Rowe that the Grange would be a good thing, and came down with Mr. Rowe and spent Feb. 23, 1892 in town and signed up 38 members. They met that evening and organized: Harrison Rowe, Master; John W. York, secretary; Sarah A. Green, lecturer.

In 1894 Emma Webster became lecturer and got out a fine program.

At end of 5 years had 63 members; at end of 10 years, 107 names. At the end of 15 years it had 96 members, and its membership was always large and active. The association of the local Grange with other Granges in the county has brought our people into contact as co-workers in everything good with similar workers in many towns. The Grange has been and is, a center of social and educational life. Its series of Masters and Lecturers have been alert, intelligent, and have managed affairs and meetings and put on programs that have been of a high order.

They have kept the old Christian Meeting House building in fine repair, have enlarged the facilities of the edifice as a hall for social gathering by building on and equipping a large kitchen.

LIST OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS MASTER

Harrison Rowe	1892	Henry Prescott	1915
J. Dean Prescott	1893	Inez Eastman	1916
Thomas Blake	1894	George Shaw	1917
Charles E. Tuck	1895	Henry Prescott	1918-'19
Oscar W. Brown	1896	George Osgood	1920
Lizzie E. Tuck	1897	Otis Eastman	1921-'22
Alonzo W. Brown	1898	Horace Evans	1923-'24
Frank A. Mace	1899	Herbert Eastman	1925-'26
Wilbur K. Parker	1900	Charles Eastman	1927-'28
Henry W. Brown	1901-'02	Helen Evans	1929-'30
Caleb W. Hodgdon	1903 (died)	Mrs. Agnes Bristol	1931-'32
George A. Prescott	1903	Harry B. Greenwood	1933-'34
Henry W. Brown	1904	Lillian C. Smith	1935-'36
Otis H. Eastman	1905-'06	Oscar Brown	1937-'38
George Osgood	1907-'08-'09	James Rosencrantz	1939
Melvin Armstrong	1910-'11-'12	Otis H. Eastman	1940
Otis Eastman	1913	Harry B. Greenwood	1941
Gilman Rowe	1914	Charles Eastman	1942

Library Circle and King's Daughters

The Ladies' Sewing Circle, made up of Unitarian women largely, who first met in the old Potter Tavern, then the home of the minister, Rev. Increase Sumner Lincoln, organized the Library Association on April 29, 1849. Their work is referred to in the chapter on Libraries. They kept their organization intact till the New Library Trustees took over in 1895, held meetings, bought books, and generally helped the town cultivate habits of reading solid matter.

The King's Daughters was made up of women, who for the most part were members of the Congregational Church. They raised money for the aid of good causes and charity, held meetings at which educational and religious papers were read and at which speakers were brought in to talk on religious and elevating subjects.

The Society organized Dec. 4, 1888, Miss Caro Titcomb being first secretary. Other secretaries were Mrs. Lucy A. Prescott, Mrs. Ida M. Mace, Mrs. Marion R. Fish, Mrs. Mable M. Brewer, Mrs. Blanche Shaw, Mrs. Eugenie Lohmann. Regular meetings ceased in 1916.

Religious Life in the Period

This is told fully in the chapter on Religious History. Suffice it to say here, that religion was a vital interest among our people.

Though relations were pleasant, yet lines between families were sharply drawn. There were Orthodox families, Universalist families, Baptist families, and a few Unitarian families. The Quakers ceased to be when the older John Dow died in 1862.

Each family attended its own services and contributed to the support of their own church and held and paid taxes on their own family-pew.

We were still in the period when the chief interest in the mind of the people of all denominations was, "WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?"

As I look back upon the 70 thoughtful men and the 90 thoughtful women who attended the three sets of services, eagerly following the preacher as he showed that the Bible taught their own peculiar ideas, and how they discussed it going home, at meals, at homes and neighborhood and in the stores for several days, I wish I could preach to that group today.

Now after 47 years of studying the Bible and near 45 years of preaching from it, I have learned so much that they would so eagerly absorb if they were here today, there is nothing in my ministerial career that I would wish so much, as the chance to stand before that 160 or so Kensington people who were living 60 years ago, and tell them all about this wonderful Book, the Bible, which since the days of printing, 500 years ago, has been the ONE BOOK of our Anglo-Saxon people, and which was the ONE BOOK of the people of Kensington between 1865 and 1895.

The many fine-spirited men and women who served the churches as pastors, deacons, active lay workers, are all spoken of in the chapter devoted to Religion and Religious History.

Our four sects were more active 1805 to 1865, but to 1895, when Elder Pike was at the Baptist, Rev. Willard Spalding at the Universalist, and Rev. David Fraser at the Congregationalist, and Rev. Samuel C. Beane at the Unitarian, over the line in Hampton Falls, how eagerly we attended the meetings, listened to sermons, enjoyed the singing, discussed the sermons, argued for our ideas. Religion brought great interest and happiness into our lives in those days.

Some Memorable Happenings and Customs

DECORATION DAY. This is now a great National Holiday. We saw it grow in Kensington. In 1878 and 1879, John M. Mallon, who lived in Kensington as a lad, and was living in Exeter following the

War, came over from Exeter and brought some flags and decorated the graves of his Civil War comrades. The first Decoration of graves of all soldiers came on Monday evening, May 31, 1880. Decoration Day that year came on a Sunday, and was thus observed on Monday by the G. A. R. Posts.

Monday evening at dusk, Rev. B. F. McDaniels of Exeter and a few Civil War veterans came to Kensington and were met at the graveyards by a few Kensington comrades and they placed flags and wreaths upon the graves. After the Decoration they went to the Town Hall where were gathered some citizens and Rev. Mr. McDaniel delivered the address.

In 1881 there was a Decoration in the afternoon by Members of the Exeter G. A. R. Post and Kensington men who were members of the same Post.

In 1882 Rev. George Osgood appealed through the NEWS-LETTER for a good observance and in the issue of June 9, he speaks in gratifying terms of the observance of the day as follows:

"Last Tuesday, Decoration Day, the members of the G. A. R. in this town, met at the cemetery, and with the assistance of a few of the citizens, decorated the graves of 63 soldiers: 8 who were in the Revolution, 35 in the War of 1812, 1 in the Mexican War, and 19 in the War of the Rebellion. There are other soldiers buried in town but no one knows where."

From 1882 Decoration Day was regularly observed with appropriation of first $20 and later $25 which went to pay the Exeter Band to come over early in the morning with members of the G. A. R. Post of Exeter and other local veterans, all assembled at the Town Hall, marched to the store of George Blake, a comrade, turned around, went to the two graveyards and decorated graves and then to the Town Hall to listen to an address.

The 1883 Pension List

THE NEWS-LETTER, Dec. 14, 1883, published a list of persons in the county who were receiving federal pensions on account of war services. Our list was as follows: —

WIDOWS OF THE WAR OF 1812, $8.00 PER MONTH

Phila Brown	Susan Wadleigh	Sally C. Dow
Mary Rowe	Mary Hilliard	Fanny R. Prescott

ON ACCOUNT OF CIVIL WAR SERVICES

Nancy Rowe, mother of Jonathan, killed in action, $8.00 per month.
Frank Tilton, gunshot wound in the hand, $4.00 per month.
Ira E. Brown, gunshot wound under the arms, $2.00 per month.

When a Neighbor Died

When I was a lad there was no such thing as an undertaker hired in town. Some man in the neighborhood had a board kept for laying people out on, or else a door would be taken off for the purpose. A member of the family or a neighbor would shave the face, if a man; the body was washed in salt and water, the jaw tied up, and old-fashioned cents laid on the eyes. Then the family would send someone to Newburyport for a coffin. Two men, neighbors or friends, would sit up each night with the corpse till the funeral.

"Good Hard Money"

When I was a lad of ten to a dozen, raking hay or dropping corn for the old farmers, I often heard them designate payment for wages, or a bill, as to be in "good hard money." This arose following the Revolution. In early days there were a few coins circulating, English and Spanish, with the Massachusetts Bay shilling from 1651, but the debts following the Revolution forced the colonies to resort to paper currency, which soon depreciated in value, and men wanted it designated whether they be paid in "hard money" or mere paper.

That Comical Brown

From my earliest recollection to time I left Kensington, that Comical Brown was making his yearly winter visit to Kensington. It was a great event in my young life. I recall sitting on the front settee in the town hall when I was a small boy, and moving gradually back as I became older. About two weeks prior to his coming, "Em" Blake whose father had charge of the Town Hall would announce, "Com Brown is coming. He has written for the hall." The glad news would pass from boy to boy. Another entertainer of the small towns in New England between 1880 and 1900 was Dick Martz. These two men gave one-man shows of songs, music, sleight of hand, impersonation, which delighted young and old for two hours. Peace be to their ashes.

Peddlers During the Period

In this period there were various men who made a living at peddling, several of them made regular trips through town.

There was "Old Chase" of Seabrook who came weekly with clams, and whose hands were worn badly by dishing up the clams from his cart; the price, 20 cents per peck.

"Old Winch" with his little satchel of essences, with his extracts, etc. A small dried up man of around 70, who snuffed his nose in a peculiar manner, which we boys mimicked.

Sam Dyer with his wagon of flowers and tomato plants, etc.

Soapy Jones with his cart of soft-soap. "Old Osgood" picking up bottles, junk and bones. "Old Tenney" with his push-cart of jack-knives, pocket-books and Yankee notions. "Old Falteau" with his cart of yarn and small dry goods. Bernhard Flateau was a small German, who before the Civil War traveled with a pack, but who before 1880 had a good horse and covered wagon and came around monthly with his wares. These were in addition to the Tin-peddler's carts, the bakers, fish-peddlers, and butchers.

Rivalry in Raising "Porkers"

In the old days not only the farmers all raised pork, but many a shoemaker kept his pig or pigs. There was a great deal of rivalry over whose "porker" would weigh the most and there was also rivalry guessing at the weight. W. N. Shaw used to tell of a man in Exeter by name of Tilton who raised a pair of pigs that dressed 1000 lbs. at Christmas, but they were near a year old at that.

The last good-natured contest I recall was when I was preaching at Ward Hill in 1905, when George Eastman, shoe-maker, had a pair of pigs from the same litter as John W. York, the prosperous farmer on York's Hill. Eastman killed his pair the first week in December and they weighed 546 lbs. Mr. York killed his a few days later and his three pigs dressed exactly 900 lbs.

The Value of the Dollar in 1880-1895

Flour was $5.00 to $7.00 a barrel; sugar, 8 cents a lb.; dressed beef and pork by the round animal brought the farmer 3½ to 4½ cents a lb.; kerosene was 4 cents a qt.; a suit of clothes cost $7.00 to $14.00; coal was $5.50 a ton with $7.00 for Franklin coal.

Wages were a dollar a day for ten hours for usual labor, with $1.25 in hoeing and planting and $1.50 a day for haying. Skilled workers like carpenters got $2.00 and $2.25 a day.

Abe Hilliard who was an exceptional carpenter worked in Amesbury and was given $2.75 a day the year round between 1881 and 1886, the biggest wages ever commanded by a Kensington man, and several boys at once went to Amesbury and Exeter to learn the carpenter's trade.

Some skilled men in carriage work or in the shoe shops made during a run of good business $2.75 and $3.00. R. R. engineers got $3.00 a day.

Vanderbilt, the Croesus of My Boyhood

"Rich as Vanderbilt" was the oft-heard quotation, when I was a boy. Many newspaper articles appeared in the weeklies, telling us what

Vanderbilt could do with his money. He was estimated to be worth $150,000,000. He had an investment of $51,000,000 in four per cent government bonds, giving him an income of five thousand dollars daily, which figured $3.47 per minute and five cents per second. His income in one day would enable him to eat ten thousand pints of peanuts, drink five thousand glasses of lemonade, or go to eight thousand different circuses, which was the peak of the ambition of any boy in the 80's.

How We Boys Got Spending Money, 1880-1890

Some boys worked out on the farm when they got to be 14 or 15 years of age, getting $6.00 a month and board. Most of us would work in planting, when we dropped corn or potatoes, and in haying when we would rake after the loads, or helping to pick up apples in the fall, these types of work getting us 25 to 50 cents a day, according to our size, age and ability.

The big snap was to get a job working on the road picking up rocks for the district surveyor, for which we got 7½ cents an hour, half a man's pay.

Then there would be an occasional quarter earned by driving cows for some farmer who was going several miles to pasture or to make a trade, or in shoveling a snow path in winter.

Some years there was a bounty on crows, hawks or woodchucks, and we hunted them and secured some.

There were certain regular chances to earn a little, which came from selling "withes" of red willow to the farmers when they repaired their fences in spring; selling "colts' foot" (sometimes called cow-slips) to the wives of the farmers; selling berries to the same homes in summer, and gathering nuts in the fall.

Hog-Pen meadow, called "The Bishop" in our time, grew many red willows and "colts' foot," and it was wet and swampy in spring, and many farmers had rather pay us 25 cents a hundred for "withes" or 20 cents a mess for "Colts' Foot," than go there themselves. Mrs. Ann Chase had an excellent berry pasture which we picked at "the halves," and a smart boy could pick 10 quarts a day, giving Mrs. Chase those he picked Monday and selling at the homes those he picked Tuesday, at 10 cents a quart, thus earning 50 cents a day.

The Annual Appearance of the Almanac

This generation, with its abundance of reading, can hardly appreciate how highly their elders prized the annual issue of the Almanac. They were used as a calendar, consulted as to weather and tides, and read

over and over again. Of course, when I was a lad the amount of reading had greatly increased, but it was still a great event when each year the announcement came, "The Almanac is Out," and was on sale at the two local stores. As one store was Republican and the other Democratic, and one was strictly a temperance establishment while the other was a place where the convivial gathered, though liquor in my day could not be sold there, I suppose they had to be different in everything, so Hillard's store sold the old Farmer's Almanac, and Blake's Store sold Leavitt's Almanac. And in addition there were various "patent-medicine" advertising almanacs and "Farmers' Account Books" which were quickly taken up, one for each home.

Queer Characters and Rugged Individuals of the Decade, 1880-1890

In older days men developed strong individualism, and as the years went by a perfectly normal man might have a queer streak. Then again there were men who bordered on the margin of being morons who, in the days of the ox-team and hand labor, were very useful and could get a living, where today they might be sent to an institution. They were queer characters. When I was a boy over and over again I heard in the stores, stories told of these queer characters and of quaint customs of earlier days. Many of them lived until I became a matured man.

NERVOUS MARTHA JERUSHA SANBORN

This forceful woman carried on her farm many years with success. A neighbor, Lafe Simpson, was to do some carpenter work for her in her barn, and she went out and instructed him to be sure and wet the nails before he hit them with his hammer, for fear they would strike sparks and set the barn on fire.

KING DAVID

In Brown, HISTORY OF HAMPTON FALLS, on Page 272, Volume II, he speaks of "Old men, clothed in rags and tatters, wandering about, and called stragglers." These still survived in the decade 1880 to 1890, and were reinforced by what we called "tramps," who were for the most part professional tramps or men who could not hold a steady job in the shops and mills because of their drink habit. One such a straggler was David George, who called himself King David. He was a little touched with over-interest in religion, and wandered about preaching his Bible, but while he called himself King David, he was mixed in his Bible characters, because he had pinned upon his long coat pieces of cloth and ribbon of every color, after the many-colored coat of

Joseph. He walked with a staff and was a stately, dignified appearing man and sold his pictures for twenty-five cents each.

Newell Healey used to allow King David to stay with him two or three days at a time and the King with his staff and bedecked with colors would travel about town, sell his picture, and talk religion with the people. We children would rush to our homes and dig up all the bright colored pieces of ribbon or cloth that we could find, tie them on our clothes, and get a cane, of staff length, and "Play King David."

BEN CARR, THE POET

For several years Ben Carr lived in town; he was a rather eccentric man who had one eye and got in bitter quarrels with his neighbors and vented his spite by clipping comic pictures from Green's Almanac, pasting them on a sheet of paper to represent the person and writing beneath them some poem. This he would nail on a shingle and hang on the gate or bars of some place where the person would get it. I give below one of his effusions which was hung on the fence of a widow who lived with her two daughters, Anne and Lucy, and with whom Ben had a quarrel. He called the two girls Grandma's old pictures, and pasted on the shingle two ridiculous pictures from Green's Almanac, and beneath it the following verse: —

Grandmother's Old Pictures (by Ben F. Carr)

"There is a place in New Hampshire called Kensington they say,
Where Grandmother's two old pictures are the order of the day.
They're out early for an airing, promenading on the green,
All lined with smiles and blushes and a slut dog in between;
Ann, she's a business woman all the neighbors say,
She often rides to Kingston with a turkey in the shay;
She dons a white cape bonnet, her dress all lined with grease,
Ann climbs into a quaker hat and there she takes her ease.
Lucy is a mum thing, sleepy she does feel,
She wears a pair of overshoes with stockings out the heel.
But when she's after 'Mully' she's light upon the toe,
She's her grandmother's old picture wherever she does go."

LUCINDA MARTIN

In the early "eighties" the last house on the South Road in Kensington was owned by Lucinda Martin. Her father had been Moses Martin, an active citizen in his day, and he left her with a fairly good stand of buildings and stock of cattle. She lived alone on the farm for years after his death, working out a living as best she could. She developed a love for her animals which made her unwilling to sell them to be killed, and thus the herd multiplied faster than means of subsistence, and the

agents of the S. P. C. A. had to investigate various reports of starving cattle. This was particularly true as Miss Martin grew to be an old lady.

One by one the unrepaired buildings fell down and the herd decreased. Finally, she sold her bull to my grandfather, Calvin Sawyer, and there was no more breeding, and at my earliest recollection she had but a single cow. This she had brought into one room in the house. Later her only occupants of the house besides herself were a large flock of ducks and geese. As one room after another became uninhabitable, the old lady retreated, and at last lived in the ell, leaving the main house to geese, ducks, turkeys and hens.

Around 1920 the town, by a close vote of 26 to 22, voted that the selectmen step in and take such measures as were necessary for the care of the poor old lady. She was a "rugged individualist" and would rather starve or freeze than accept aid, but there was no help for it, so she went to spend her last days at Brentwood where she would be warm, clean and well fed.

OLD MARSHALL, THE PUMP-MAKER

Marshall lived in Hamstead; his two sisters lived on the North Road, one of them being the wife of Mr. Rowell. Marshall traveled around the county making pumps. He would take a job, go out into the woods to cut a pine, a tree of considerable size, bore it, put in a handle, and go away leaving it working. Sometimes he would do this in one day, at other times he would remain with the family overnight and finish the next day. Marshall was one of the old time "rugged individuals."

One of the stories told about him was of his giving work to a man who needed it. The man had a family and Marshall gave him $1.00 a day for ten hours' work wheeling stones from one corner of his pasture to another. It took the man a week. He wanted more work and Marshall gave him $1 a day to wheel them to the next corner. It took him a week. Then he wanted more work and Marshall gave him $1 a day to wheel them to the third corner. When that week was done and he wanted more work Marshall told him to wheel them back to where he started from. The man's response was "I'll be damned if I do it. I have wheeled those old rocks enough." At which Marshall responded, "I don't care whether you wheel them around or not, but you wanted work and wanted money, and it is my opinion that a man appreciates money if he works hard for it." So the man took the job and wheeled them back to where he started from.

Transition Period, 1895-1900

The decade and a half, 1880 to 1895, was the period when Amesbury was at its best as a "carriage town." New factories went up as did homes for the workers. Wages were good. Skilled carpenters got $2.50 a day and when Abram Hilliard came back from Lynn in 1880 and went to work in Amesbury as a carpenter for $2.75 a day, several ambitious young men went down with him to learn the trade. Among them were John Wadleigh, Leverett Fellows and Will Tilton; later Arthur Simpson and Dan Prescott went as well. Other young men went to Exeter to learn the same trade, George B. Shaw, Frank Tuck and Wendell Hilliard.

Several young men between 1885 and 1895 went to Haverhill, John Dow, Fred Dow, the Blake boys, the Rollins boys and others.

But the Amesbury boom made a good market for the farmers and there were plenty of boys left to work in the little shoe-shops, and though there was some loss in population the town kept up till the period between 1895 and 1900.

In this period a larger number of young men left town. Several girls had graduated from Newburyport, Exeter and Kingston and left town. Young men had taken business courses and sought positions in the cities. Some older farmers died and property went into the destructive hands of lumber operators who cut off the wood and sold the real estate to anyone.

The little shoe-shops disappeared and the "freighters" no longer came into Kensington. Several weddings between 1895 and 1900 took both a young man and maiden from Kensington.

Loss followed loss, real estate reached a ridiculously low price, good homes in good condition were sold for from $200 to $400. The Sally Rollins property put up at auction brought only one bid, viz. for $125 and was bid in and sold at private sale for $200.

It is necessary to have both lived in the decade 1890-1900, and to have been a student of New England history, to really understand what a tremendous decade that was.

New ideas were bursting, and as a result of great industrial changes based on new inventions of machinery, new conditions of life were coming rapidly on. The small town in New England was hardest hit by the changes. Kensington withstood the situation far better than many towns. Though several had left town to work in the cities, they kept their voting residence in town and thus were not entirely lost to us.

Our new Social Library opened its doors in 1895; there was much religious and social activity at the Congregational Church where Rev. David Fraser was carrying on a successful pastorate; at the Universalist

Church the older families were still faithful and Amesbury pastors came here and preached every Sunday afternoon during the warmer months, notably Rev. Mr. Little and Rev. Mr. Gibbs; several bright young people who were at school came home every week-end and brought new ideas and stirred up the town to activity.

Then again the younger men on some of our farms were introducing new methods and were making more money.

In 1897 the Junior Order of American Mechanics was organized and was an active social center.

Thus the town held up well between 1895 and 1900, our voting list carried 175 names in 1896 and 1897, dropped only to 174 and in 1898 and 171 in 1899.

We had many very active people of elder years who were keenly interested in the history of the town and its civic and social and religious life. In 1896 they got a vote in the March meeting to raise $50 to have the first volume of the town records copied and the original volume placed in the fire-proof room of the Library. They put on loan exhibits. They held a most successful Old Home Day in 1899. Many of them were in the Grange which was active. Political interest was keen and there was much discussion of the new issues which were brought to the front by the crusade of the Knights of Labor, the Populist movement in the West, and the Free Silver crusade of 1896.

On the whole Kensington was never more active and its standards of life higher and its intellectual interests stronger than between 1895 and 1900, but it was a position that we could not maintain.

The young people in school and coming back week-ends and summers were bound to graduate and move on. The active older people were to pass off the stage. The sad accident of 1898 when four members of the active young people of the Congregational Church were drowned at Hampton in July struck a hard blow. No family in town ever brought a finer support to everything wholesome in our town than was brought by Walter Hodgdon and his brilliant children, Gertrude and Ralph, who were in school at Exeter, and all three were drowned. Young people away allowed their names to drop from our voting lists, thus the active life we held right up to the turn of the century was ready for sudden change.

Civic Records 1895-1900

1896, 175 voters on the list, McKinley received 88 votes; Bryan received 51, and Palmer and Buckner, the Gold Standard Democrats, received 6, and Bryan and Watson on the Populist received 4.

1898, 174 voters on the list, Frank W. Rollins for governor received 87 votes; Charles F. Stone, 69 votes; Gardner J. Greenleaf, Populist, 1.
1900, 153 voters on the list, McKinley and Roosevelt received 79, Bryan and Sewell 49, Wooley and Metcalf, Prohibitionists, received 1.

Lincoln Council No 21, Junior Order United American Mechanics

Lincoln Council No. 21 was organized in Kensington March 10, 1897, its Charter Members being as follows:

Walter A. Hilliard	George B. Shaw	Wendell P. Hilliard
Frank H. Poor	Frank Philbrick	Alva Brewer
George A. Prescott	Oscar R. Eaton	Geo. O. Brewster
Charles S. Fisher	Stephen Brown, Jr.	Benj. F. Rowe
Geo. E. Knight	William O. Tilton	Ellery C. Wadleigh
Herbert L. Eaton	Warren L. Simpson	Sylvester N. Hobbs
Charles E. Gove	John A. Evans	Edward P. Kimball

The first regular meeting was held March 19 and the following was the first set of officers:

Jr. P. Cr., Stephen Brown, Jr.	Con., Wendell P. Hilliard
R. S., Frank Philbrick	O. S., Charles S. Fisher
Treas., Frank H. Poor	V. O., Walter A. Hilliard
I. S., Geo. E. Knight	F. S., Geo. A. Prescott
Jr. Cr., George B. Shaw	War., Herbert L. Eaton

A. R. C., George Brewster
Trustees, Alva Brewer and Charles E. Gove

Kensington in the New Century, 1901 to 1943

(1)

TWENTY YEARS OF DECLINE

"I see farms that have become pastures, back roads closed, once busy homes with no occupants, and I ask where are the youth who were reared on these lovely hillsides?

"They are in the various cities, laboring, living, grappling with problems, with the same indomitable spirit with which their fathers wrung their sustenance from these boulder-strewn fields."

(From the biography of Rev. A. J. Gordon of Boston, where his son Ernest speaks of his father's birth-town in N. H.)

In 1903 our check-list showed 146 names. In 1904 it was 140. The 1910 census showed our population down to 417 and our check-list carried only 122 names. Our real estate was at a low ebb in value; farms that once sold for $5,000 when the dollar was worth more, now sold

for $1,800. Excellent small homes once worth $800 and $900 sold for $200 and $300.

Our daily stage was shortened first to a star route from Exeter to Kensington Post Office, and then abandoned while four R. F. D. routes brought our mail from Exeter, East Kingston, Hampton Falls and Amesbury.

In 1919 our population was down to 398 and our voting list showed only 113 names, and the spring contests for town office called out a total vote of only 41.

(2)

TWENTY YEARS OF IMPROVEMENT, 1921-1943

The World War opened change for good jobs in towns around Kensington between 1916 and 1920. Automobiles could be bought second hand for $200 and men could work away and drive back and forth.

Amesbury developed into a boom town that lasted till the depression of 1929. Whole families like Otis H. Eastman and his sons were to find work in Amesbury, with wages running far up in the brackets above $50 per week, which would enable them to buy land, marry and build new homes, or buy old places and fix them up. The telephone became a common thing; automobiles became the property of every family; the radio, new roads, and trucks worked by the state to break out the snow paths in winter.

Real estate took a jump in values, the state helped us build good roads on the main ways and the town raised good sums to build on the cross roads. A new school system provided for High School education at public expense in Amesbury, Exeter and Kingston. Wages for work right here in town doubled and tripled. Prices to cut cord wood jumped from $1.00 to $3.50. Day labor was worth $3.00 instead of $1.00.

While there were few of the farms worked, yet men could live here and work elsewhere at good pay and short hours, and could raise some things and live easily and cheaply if work lagged.

Thus new families have come among us, social life has taken a boom, new societies have sprung up, like the Parents, Teachers Association; good roads and automobiles have made it possible for the Grange members to go anywhere in the locality.

The chapter on Homesteads will tell the story of new and desirable families that have come to make Kensington their home, and their interest in our town and activities in the various realms of its life, religious, political, social, economic, educational, have all brought the town up to be an active, prosperous, clean town. It is not the old Kensington of the period between 1714 and 1914, but it is a new town, built on the labors of the generations who lived here in that 200 years.

The Effect on the Town of National Conditions, 1929-1943

The United States did not share in the post-war conditions that followed the first World-War in the old world. Things boomed in America till the bottom dropped out in 1929 and within a few weeks came loss of work, loss of profits, wages, and a radical deflation in our swollen levels.

Whether it would have been better if at that time we should have rolled up our sleeves and gone to work, forgetting the period of 1915-1929, as a 14 years period of unusual prosperity, we shall never know. The people naturally did not like it, and in 1932 they threw out the Republican party that had long been in power and placed the Democrats, with Roosevelt at their lead, in power.

The Roosevelt administration forthwith set at work to maintain the conditions of the 1915-1929 world by taking up unemployment and keeping money in circulation with a great plan of "Public Work" paid for out of borrowed money, with a regulated price-list for wages and profits. The N.R.A., W.P.A., etc. became a powerful force in our economic life and took precedence over private enterprise at many places.

Money for public works was poured by the Federal government into every community, and in this Kensington shared. We had no longer any unemployed, nor any self-employed on their farms and homes. Work on the W.P.A. was available. How lavishly this work was at hand can be seen that in one Town Meeting, where the Federal people would contribute $2,750.00 if the town would contribute $250.00, to fence and improve the unsightly Upper Graveyard of stumps and broken stones. The project was turned down.

Those years of W.P.A. work of course brought prosperity to the town; every family had its auto; our children were carried by their people to Exeter and Amesbury and Kingston to school when they reached the sixth grade; family parties each night went to the "movies"; several new homes were put up and several old places improved and enlarged.

Then this season veered off into the Second World-War, feverish activity developed in Portsmouth, 16 miles away, and loads of workers went daily to the Navy Yard. Other loads or individual automobiles went to factories in near-by towns where work boomed and wages were big.

I write this paragraph after listening nightly at Esther Warner's store of the wages men are earning; lads from the High School going to

work for $6.00 a day and soon advanced to $50.00 a week. Men with skill at some calling making from $60.00 to $84.00 a week, and men who were W.P.A. laborers earning $45.00 to $55.00 a week.

Such is the Kensington at the time I write, and from which thirty boys have already entered the army. No one can dream of what the future will be. The story of what shall come after 1943 must be told by a future historian.

The Civic Record, 1900-1943

1904 — 10 parcels of real estate were advertised for unpaid taxes of 1903, something new in thrifty Kensington.

The Grange incorporated to hold property, every member of the Grange a member of the corporation. Roosevelt carried the town over Parker by 66 to 62.

1908 — Taft defeated Bryan by 68 to 38.

1910 — March meeting voted to take out seats in Town Hall along the side and lay a new floor.

1912 — The Primary system of choosing candidates comes in.

1915 — The Congregational Church incorporates.

1916 — The town on April first entered Supervisory Union No. 16 of the School system of the state; at that time made up of Exeter, Newfields, Hampton Falls, later changed to include Greenland, East Kingston and Stratham, and Hampton Falls dropped to another Union.

1918 — 37 votes cast for a delegate to the Constitutional Convention; Herbert M. Prescott received 22 to 19 for Melvin Armstrong.

1920 — The votes for selectmen were as follows:

North Road selectman: Walter A. Hilliard, 26; John R. Malloy, 21.
Middle Road selectman: Alva Brewer, 31; Otis H. Eastman, 17.
South Road selectman: Stephen Brown, 31; Fred Foss, 18.

From 1737 to 1895, save on a few occasions when the Board was more than three men, it had been chosen, one each, from North, Middle and South Roads. In 1896, when Abram Hilliard became the political boss in town, he abandoned the time-honored custom and chose them from wherever he could make the strongest slate. Now 1920 was to see the last election of three selectmen at one town meeting for an annual term.

1921 — First election of Selectmen to serve three years: This year the elections were of course for one, two and three year terms.

Walter A. Hilliard received the three-year term, Stephen Brown the two-year term and Alva Brewer the one-year term.

This new system, coupled with women voting which came in at the same time made a great change in the annual meeting, and the

chief fight being over receiving and expending "state aid" on the roads under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen, made also another great change, for now the office of the selectman who came up annually received far more attention than the fall elected representative.

March 1921 — Voted the sum of $175.00 for a memorial to Soldiers of the World War. It was placed in the Social Library yard for unveiling on Decoration Day.

March 1927 — Voted that the selectmen bargain with either Exeter or Amesbury individuals to break snow-paths with trucks.

March 1931 — Voted selectmen provide better fire protection by buying pumps etc. and making agreement with Exeter and Amesbury fire departments to respond to call from town.

March 1932 — Voted to adopt the Budget system of town appropriations at the annual meetings.

March 1936 — Liberal appropriations for W.P.A. first appear.

March 1937 — Town votes to observe its 200th anniversary as an independent political body.

March 1942 — Town instructs selectmen to expend not to exceed $100.00 to copy vital statistics under direction of Mr. Sawyer.

The Trend and Events in the New Century, 1900-1943

Though our population of 524 in 1900 dropped to 383 in 1920 before a start upward began, yet through the past 43 years there has been a marked trend in at least four ways: more ease of life with more money to spend; a larger range of amusement; greatly increased social activity; greatly increased activity of women. And in the past 20 years there has been as well a good deal of improvement of homes and the building of new homes.

From 1900 to 1915 we had a group of active young people, who had for the most part been away to school, and they carried on baseball, whist parties, dramatic entertainment, socials and dances.

Around 1915, some of these younger people had matured and married, and other older people joined them, the automobile was becoming more widely owned, and in the years since many organized groups have flourished.

Education outside town, modern life with its improvements giving more money and greater ease, the spirit of the times, woman suffrage in 1921, all these have brought women into the picture of life with a greatly increased activity, which has helped the town immensely along the ways of wholesome life and prosperity.

The Grange, organized in 1892, the Junior Order of American Mechanics, organized in 1897, the Ladies Aid organized in 1899, were

especially active between 1900 and 1915, and the Grange and Ladies Aid have kept up their activities to the present. Several Whist Clubs have flourished, a Young People's Social Union, for a time a revived Christian Endeavor Society, The Moulton Circle between 1915-1926, the Red Cross, The Woman's Thursday Club, the Parent-Teacher Association, have been major organizations. All of these have been treated elsewhere in this book save the following.

THE RED CROSS

A local branch of this order was formed June 27, 1917 and held meetings till 1921. Its membership reached 82. Its chairman was Rev. Dorrall Lee, its vice-chairman was George A. Prescott, its treasurer, Mrs. John M. True.

THE WOMAN'S THURSDAY CLUB

The Club was organized Feb. 11, 1915 at the home of Mrs. Amelia Rowe, and joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs on March 8, 1918. It ceased regular meetings in 1936. Its membership list was limited to 25 with an allowance of various associate members. Its Constitution, adopted March 11, 1915, declared its objects to be: "To provide a non-sectarian body for social gathering, and directing work and study for the mutual benefit of its members."

The first set of officers were: Miss Sarah Abby Green, president; Mrs. Annie (Brown) Philbrick, vice-president; Mrs. Maria F. Prescott, secretary; Mrs. Agnes S. Brown, treasurer.

Other presidents were: Mrs. Maria F. Prescott, Mrs. Marian R. Fish, Mrs. Agnes S. Brown, Mrs. Ruth B. Armstrong, Mrs. Alice (Brown) Prescott, Mrs. Dolber M. Blodgett, Mrs. Agnes Bristol, Miss Lillian C. Smith, Mrs. Abbie (Brown) Sanborn, Miss Agnes E. Kimball, Mrs. Eva M. Sanborn.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The local branch of this excellent movement was organized Nov. 17, 1937. It has been and is at present an active body, working for its declared purpose of bringing school and home into closer relations and promoting the welfare of children and youth in home, school and town.

The first set of officers were: president, Mrs. Dorothy Cook; vice-president, Miss Rachel Swasey; secretary, Mrs. Edith F. Dunn; treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Bodwell; historian, Miss Faith York. Other presidents have been Mrs. Gracilla Philbrick and Mrs. Edith F. Dunn.

The present officers are: president, Mrs. Barbara I. Wilbur; vice-president, Mrs. Evelyn E. Knight; secretary, Mrs. Geraldine C. Sargent; treasurer, Mrs. Lillian R. Philbrick.

CHAPTER 9

OUR TOWN OFFICIALS — A LIST OF CITIZENS HOLDING MAJOR POSITIONS — DELEGATES TO PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS — SENATE AND COUNTY OFFICE — REPRESENTATIVES — TOWN OFFICES OF MODERATOR, TOWN CLERK, SELECTMEN

Delegates to Provincial Congresses

First Provincial Congress at Exeter, July 1, 1774 — None.
(85 delegates were elected by the various towns and 64 attended. Kensington did not elect.)

Second Provincial Congress at Exeter, 1775 — 144 elected, 121 attended. Kensington's delegates, elected and attended:
Jonathan Dow, Nathaniel Healey, Benjamin Rowe, Ezekiel Worthen, Ebenezer Potter.

Third Provincial Congress, April 21, 1775 — Capt. Ezekiel Worthen, Mr. Ebenezer Potter, Mr. Benjamin Prescott.

Fourth Provincial Congress, May 16, 1775 — Capt. Ezekiel Worthen.

Fifth Provincial Congress, Dec. 21, 1775 — Mr. Ebenezer Potter and Capt. Ezekiel Worthen.

This Congress on Jan. 5, 1776 resolved itself into an independent government of the state of New Hampshire, and when it adjourned, it chose A Committee of Public Safety to act during its recess; Mr. Potter was a member of that Safety Committee.

Delegates to Various Constitutional Conventions

Capt. Ezekiel Worthen, 1778
Joseph Brown, 1783
Major Jere Fogg, 1788 and 1791
Jeremiah Bachelder, 1850
Rev. Jonathan E. Brown, 1876
John W. York, 1889
Weare Nudd Shaw, 1903
Stewart E. Rowe, Esq., 1811
Herbert M. Prescott, 1918-19
D. Everett Palmer, 1940

Members of the State Senate

Major Jere Fogg, 1796
Hon. Newell Healey, 1821 and 1822
Hon. Smith Lamprey, 1835 and 1836

Member of County Commission

Abram Hilliard, 1907

Representatives in the Legislature, 1762–1942

Kensington has been sending a representative for the space of 180 years. At first there seems to have been no serious contest for the office; two or three citizens apparently were looked upon as best fitted for the position, and they passed it back and forth.

A little later there was a wider distribution of the honor, and with the advent of increased political interest in the time of Clay, Webster, and Calhoun, the office became the one supreme political fight in the political history of the town, and it has remained such through the years. The contests in the decade between 1840 and 1850 between Whigs and Republican-Democrats and between Republicans and Democrats from 1856 to 1896 were always close and bitter.

In 1840, Col. John T. Blake, Whig candidate was elected by 1 vote. He sat in the June session but the fall session unseated him. He was elected for three successive terms following.

In 1846, Squire Ira Blake was elected by one vote over Elder Julius C. Blodgett, elder in the Christian Church.

One of the hot fights was that of 1868. The Republicans had overthrown the usual Democratic majority in 1865, '66 and '67. The Democrats put up Daniel G. York, who had been their last elected representative in 1864, and who was known to be a hard fighter. York did not disappoint his followers for he won the election.

In 1873 there were three candidates in the field, Jeremiah Tilton, Amos T. Rowe and John Gustavus Dow; after 7 ballots the meeting adjourned without election.

In 1874 there was another deadlock and the town did not send; the deadlocked fight this year was between Daniel G. York and E. Judson Blodgett.

Under the Bi-ennial system which started in 1881, the Democrats easily elected in '81 to '87; but in March, 1888, a small body of Democrats held a small meeting when the rest of the town was breaking out roads following the great blizzard, and there was a strong feeling of resentment, and the fights of 1889, 1891 and 1893 were hot, but Joseph N. Austin, Harrison Rowe and John W. York won out.

In 1894 a branch of the Peoples' Party was organized in town and held a small block of votes that showed it possessed the balance of power, and the elections were close in 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, but swung back to normal Democratic majorities following.

Another period of close contests came with the election in the fall of 1920 and lasted a decade, in which time the Republicans sent the Representative in 1921, 1923, 1925. The list with date of service follows:

The List, Representatives, 1762–1943

Capt. Ezekiel Worthen, 1762 and 1768, '74, '79
Dr. Benjamin Rowe, 1772, 1773
Nathaniel Healey, 1775
Ebenezer Potter, 1776 and '77, '78, '80, '81
Moses Shaw, Jr., 1782 to 1786
(None sent 1787 to 1790)
Major Jere Fogg, 1791, '94, '95
Lt. Enoch Worthen, 1796 and '99 and 1801, '04, '08, 1813 to '17
Joseph Brown, 1798, 1800, '08, '09
Samuel Dearborn, 1810, 1811
Newell Healey, 1812, 1819 and 1821, '24, '25
Robert Prescott, 1818, '20
Jeremy Bachelor, 1826, '27, '28
Smith Lamprey, 1829 to 1833
Josiah Prescott, 1835, '36
Benjamin Moulton, 1837, '38
John T. Blake, 1839, '40, '41
Lewis Gove, 1842
John Nudd, 1843
Ira Blake, 1845, '46
Elder J. C. Blodgett, 1847
Abel Brown, 1849 and 1854
Jeremiah Poor, 1850
Stephen Brown, 1857 and 1863
Capt. Joe Brown, 1858
Newell Dow, 1859
Jonathan Palmer, 1860
Daniel Prescott, 1862, '63
Daniel G. York, 1864, '68, '76
John Adams Blake, 1865, '66
Henry C. Tuck, 1867, '70
Edward Brewer, 1871
John G. Dow, 1872
Weare N. Shaw, 1875
Daniel Ellery Palmer, 1877
George Page, 1878
Francis Hilliard, 1879

Under the Bi-Ennial System

Levi B. Tilton, 1881
LaRoy S. Sanborn, 1883
Joseph Newell Healey, 1887
Joseph N. Austin, 1889
Harrison Rowe, 1891
John W. York, 1893
Lewis E. Gove, 1895
Benjamin George Moulton, 1897
Abram Hilliard, 1899
Judson Blodgett, 1901
George Knight, 1905
Stephen Brown, 1909
Henry W. Brown, 1911
Frank A. Mace, 1913
Herman E. Brown, 1917
Ralph B. Fish, 1921
Horace P. Blodgett, 1923
Arthur G. Wadleigh, 1925
Herbert L. Eastman, 1929
Everett S. Mace, 1933
Daniel Everett Palmer, 1937
Horace O. Evans, 1941
John R. Malloy, 1942

The census of 1900 showed the population so small that no Representative was sent in 1903 and 1907. The census of 1910, cut out 1915 and 1919. And later census enumerations have cut out 1927, 1931, 1935, 1939.

Moderators in the Annual Town Meetings

1737 Richard Sanborn
1738 John Prescutt
1739 Joseph Wadleigh
1740 John Bachelder
1741-45 Deacon John Bachelder
1746 Mr. Richard Sanborn
1747-48 Deacon Bachelder
1749 Joseph Wadleigh
1750-51 Deacon John Bachelder
1752-56 Ezekiel Dow, Esq.
1757-58 Joseph Wadleigh
1759-60 Benjamin Prescott
1761-62 Mr. Joseph Wadleigh
1763 Nathaniel Healey
1764 Joseph Wadleigh
1765 Ezekiel Dow, Esq.
1766 Joseph Wadleigh
1767 Benj. Rowe, Esq.
1768 Dea. Jonathan Dow
1769 Mr. Jonathan Brown
1770 Capt. Worthen
1771-74 Benj. Rowe, Esq.
1775 John Lane
1776-81 Benj. Rowe, Esq.
1782-83 Mr. Jonathan Brown
1784-85 Benj. Rowe, Esq.
1786 Mr. Jonathan Brown
1787 Lt. Joseph Brown
1788 Ebenezer Potter
1789 Ebenezer Clifford, Esq.
1790 Lt. Enoch Worthen
1791 Ebenezer Clifford
1792-95 Jere Fogg, Esq.
1796 Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1797-99 Jere Fogg, Esq.
1800 Major Newell Healey
1801 Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1802 Capt. Joseph Brown
1803 Jere Fogg, Esq.
1804-05 James Purington
1806-07 Jere Fogg, Esq.
1808-09 Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1810 Newell Healey
1811 Capt. Joseph Brown
1812 Newell Healey, Esq.
1813-14 James Purington
1815-17 John Dow
1818 Robert Prescott
1819 Capt. Stephen Brown
1820-21 Newell Healey, Esq.
1822 Capt. Benjamin Dow
1823-26 Newell Healey, Esq.
1827 John Dow
1828 Capt. Stephen Brown
1829-36 John Dow
1837 Hon. Smith Lamprey
1838-40 Esq. Ira Blake
1841 Col. Jeremy Bachelder
1842 John Nudd
1843 William Nudd
1844 Jonathan Palmer
1845 Dr. Jonathan Brown
1846 Dr. Jonathan Brown
1847 Esq. Ira Blake
1848 Esq. Ira Blake
1849 S. Parsons Tuck
1850 S. Parsons Tuck
1851 William Nudd
1852 S. Parsons Tuck
1853-55 Col. John T. Blake
1856 Weare Nudd Shaw
1857 Ira Blake
1858 Jonathan Palmer
1859 Col. John T. Blake
1860 Col. John T. Blake
1861 Stephen Brown
1862 Stephen Brown
1863 Rev. Julius C. Blodgett
1864 Rev. Julius C. Blodgett
1865 Stephen Brown
1866 Lewis E. Gove
1867 Deacon Stephen Brown

1868 Col. John T. Blake
1869 Col. John T. Blake
1870 Stephen Green
1871 Charles E. Tuck
1872 Col. John T. Blake
1873 Col. John T. Blake
1874 Joseph N. Austin
1875 Charles E. Tuck
1876 Col. John T. Blake
1877 Col. John T. Blake
1878 Stephen Brown
1879 Col. John T. Blake
1880 Col. John T. Blake
1881 Joseph N. Austin
1882 Joseph N. Austin
1883 Josiah D. Prescott
1884 Leroy S. Sanborn
1885 Joseph N. Austin
1886 Joseph N. Austin
1887 Joseph N. Austin
1888 Joseph N. Austin
1889-90 Josiah D. Prescott
1891-94 Joseph N. Austin
1895-1904 Wilber K. Parker
1905-06 Leroy S. Sanborn
1907-10 Frank A. Bachelder
1911-12 Frank A. Mace
1913-16 George McKenna
1917 Stephen Brown
1918 Frank A. Mace
1919-20 George B. Shaw
1921-26 Sherman W. Shaw
1927-32 Stephen Brown
1933-34 Sherman W. Shaw
1935-42 John W. York

Parish and Town Clerks

PARISH CLERKS

Ezekiel Dow, Esq., 1737 to 1747, continuous
Benjamin Rowe, Esq., 1748 to 1762, continuous

TOWN CLERKS

Benjamin Rowe, Esq., 1762 to 1766; he was chosen 1766, refused to serve, and Deacon Dow and Deacon Page were chosen a committee to receive the book from Squire Rowe and take it to Joseph Tilton.
Joseph Tilton, Esq., 1766 to 1777 (he died in office Oct. 24, 1777)
Elijah Tilton, rest of 1777 and 1778
Ebenezer Potter, 1779 to 1783, inclusive
Moses Shaw, Jr., 1784 to 1816, continuous, 33 years
Ensign John Blake, 1817 to 1831
Col. John T. Blake, 1832 to 1839

1840 Rufus K. Hilliard
1841 Rufus K. Hilliard
1842 Dearborn T. Blake
1843 Dearborn T. Blake
1844 William Nudd
1848-51 Joseph Poor
1852 Ferdinand L. Blake
1853 Joseph Poor
1854 Joseph Poor
1855 Joseph Weare Brown
1856 Joseph Weare Brown
1857 Amos T. Rowe
1858 Josiah D. Prescott
1859 Thomas H. Blake

1860 Wm. H. Hodgdon
1861 John T. Hilliard
1862 John T. Hilliard
1863 Joseph Poor
1864 Joseph Newton Austin
1865 Henry C. Tuck
1866 Henry C. Tuck
1867 John P. M. Green
1868 Samuel L. Lamprey
1869 Henry C. Tuck
1870 Benj. F. Austin
1871 Cyrus D. Wadleigh
1872-73 Stephen C. Sawyer
1874-77 Thomas H. Blake
1878 Sidney C. Chase
1879-82 Thomas H. Blake
1883-84 Fred H. Dow
1885-86 Thomas H. Blake
1887 Gilman Lamprey
1888 Thomas H. Blake
1889-90 Frank A. Mace
1891-93 Arthur W. Gooch
1894-95 Walter A. Hilliard
1896-1900 Daniel Dearborn
1901-07 Herbert M. Prescott
1908-11 Horace P. Blodgett
1912-14 Irving C. Gove
1915-17 George T. McKenna
1918-22 Herbert M. Prescott
1923-28 Horace P. Blodgett
1929-43 Horace O. Evans

Boards of Selectmen

1737 Jonathan Prescut, John Weare and James Perkins
1738 Jonathan Prescut, Ezekiel Dow and Joseph Shaw
1739 James Fogg, Jonathan Dow and Samuel Page
1740 Robert Rowe, Nathaniel Dearborn and Ezekiel Dow
1741 Dea. Abraham Moulton, Ebenezer Brown and Jeremiah Eastman
1742 John Batchelder, Richard Sanborn and Nathan Clough
1743 Jonathan Dow, Philemon Blake and Samuel Page
1744 Hezekiah Blake, Jonathan Dow and James Fogg
1745 Jonathan Prescut, Samuel Clifford and Ebenezer Brown
1746 Edward Tuck, Josiah Brown and Jonathan Dow
1747 Benjamin Prescut, Samuel Page and Nathan Clough
1748 Lieut. Ezekiel Worthen, Ebenezer Brown and James Prescut
1749 Joseph Wadleigh, Moses Shaw and Jonathan Dow
1750 John Batchelder, Joseph Row and Joseph Pike
1751 Samuel Clifford, Jr., Benjamin Prescut, Samuel Fellows and Benjamin Brown, Jr.
1752 Joseph Tilton, Samuel Clifford, Jr., Nathaniel Dearborn
1753 John Page, Capt. Samuel Page and Jonathan Dow
1754 Ensign Joseph Tilton, Joseph Weare and Ebenezer Brown
1755 Joseph Brown, Jr., Ebenezer Brown and Benjamin Prescut
1756 Benjamin Rowe, Ebenezer Brown and Ezekiel Worthen
1757 Joseph Tilton, Joseph Dow and Samuel Clifford, Jr.
1758 John Page, Samuel Clifford, Jr., Samuel Fellows
1759 Samuel Clifford, Jr., Benjamin Rowe and Moses Shaw

1760 Lieut. Nathaniel Healy, Ebenezer Brown and Jonathan Brown, 2d
1761 Deacon Hilyard, Dea. Jonathan Dow; (voted the 3rd selectman be a Quaker), Jonathan Purington
1762 Samuel Clifford, Benjamin Prescut and Samuel Fellows
1763 Lieut. Abraham Prescut, Jonathan Purington and Joseph Wadleigh
1764 Nathaniel Batchelder, Joseph Weare and Philbrick Palmer
1765 Dea. Jonathan Dow, Benjamin Rowe and Moses Shaw
1766 Dea. Joseph Chase Hilyard, Stephen Page and Joseph Brown, Jr.
1767 John Page, Philbrick Palmer and Samuel Clifford
1768 Jeremiah Sanborn, John Blake and Joseph Brown
1769 Capt. Lane, Ebenezer Brown and Samuel Clifford
1770 Caleb Shaw, Ebenezer Brown, Deacon Dow, Jeremiah Sanborn and Joseph Brown
1771 Capt. John Lane, John Blake and Joseph Brown
1772 Ebenezer Potter, John Blake and Jonathan Dow
1773 Major John Lane, John Blake and Joseph Clifford
1774 Jeremiah Fellows, John Blake and Joseph Brown, Jr.
1775 Ebenezer Potter, Jeremiah Dearborn and Dea. Jonathan Dow
1776 Isaac Fellows, Nathaniel Gove and Josiah Batchelder
1777 Isaac Fellows, Nathaniel Weare and Jeremiah Fellows
1778 Lieut. Jeremiah Batchelder, Dea. Stephen Page and Jonathan Brown
1779 Jeremiah Batchelder, Stephen Page and Joseph Brown, Jr.
1780 Lieut. Samuel Prescott, Jeremiah Dearborn and Benjamin Eastman
1781 Jeremiah Batchelder, Joseph Brown, Jr. and Dea. Stephen Page
1782 Benjamin Rowe, Esq., Nathaniel Weare and Isaac Fellows
1783 Joseph Brown, Jr., Lieut. Jeremiah Batchelder and Nathen Sanborn
1784 Benjamin Rowe, Esq., Joseph Hilliard and Nathaniel Weare
1785 Benjamin Tilton, Joseph Hilliard and Nathaniel Weare
1786 Capt. Philemon Blake, Jeremiah Fellows and Enoch Worthen
1787 Newell Healey, Stephen Green and Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1788 Capt. Jeremiah Batchelder, Jeremiah Fellows, Jr., Ebenezer Loverin
1789 Capt. Jeremiah Batchelder, Jeremiah Fellows, Jr., Ebenezer Loverin
1790 Capt. Jeremiah Batchelder, Jeremiah Fellows, Jr. and Jonathan Purington; voted that Messrs. Newell Healey, Jeremiah Dearborn, Lieut. Nathaniel Weare and Jeremiah Tilton be as additional members of the present board of Selectmen.

1791 Ebenezer Clifford, Esq., Stephen Green and Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1792 Ebenezer Clifford, Esq., Moses Shaw and Stephen Brown
1793 Capt. Jere Bachelder, Jeremiah Fellows, Jr. and Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1794 Col. Jere Bachelder, Stephen Green and Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1795 Jewett Sanborn, Moses Shaw and Benjamin Loverin
1796 Jere Bachelder, Stephen Green and Benjamin Loverin
1797 Benjamin Tilton, Jr., Moses Shaw and Capt. Stephen Brown
1798 Ensign John Blake, Stephen Green and Enoch Worthen
1799 Ensign John Blake, Simon Rowe and Joseph Weare
1800 Jeremiah Fellows, Stephen Green and John French
1801 Robert Prescott, Samuel Dearborn and Abel Brown
1802 Robert Prescott, Samuel Dearborn and James Purington
1803 Weare Nudd, Samuel Dearborn and Joseph Weare
1804 Robert Prescott, Samuel Lamprey and Benjamin Loverin
1805 Benjamin Tilton, Jr., Simon Rowe and Joseph Weare
1806 Benjamin Prescott, Dea. Jeremiah Fellows and Joseph Weare
1807 Ensign John Blake, Nathan Green and Capt. Benjamin Dow
1808 Ensign John Blake, Samuel Dearborn and Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1809 Benjamin Tilton, Jere Fellows and John Dow
1810 Benjamin Tilton, Dearborn Blake and Lieut. Enoch Worthen
1811 Benjamin Tilton, John P. Blake and James Purington
1812 Benjamin Tilton, Samuel Dearborn and James Purington
1813 Lieut. Hilliard Sanborn, Nathan Green and Capt. Joseph Weare
1814 Benjamin Tilton, Dearborn Blake and James Purington
1815 Lieut. Stephen Kimball, Dearborn Blake and Capt. Stephen Brown
1816 Benjamin Tilton, Dearborn Blake and Lieut. Stephen Brown
1817 Stephen Kimball, Dearborn Blake and Stephen Brown, Jr.
1818 Stephen Kimball, Dea. Jeremiah Fellows and Stephen Brown, Jr.
1819 Robert Prescott, Dearborn Blake and Stephen Brown, Jr.
1820 Stephen Kimball, Nathan Green and Benjamin Dow
1821 Jeremy Bachelder, Dearborn Blake and Theodore Loverin
1822 Ensign Benjamin Moulton, Dearborn Blake and Theodore Loverin
1823 Jeremy Bachelder, Dearborn Blake and Theodore Loverin
1824 Daniel Prescott, Ezra Chase and Abel Brown
1825 Daniel Prescott, Ezra Chase and Abel Brown
1826 Benjamin Moulton, Dearborn Blake and Theodore Loverin
1827 Daniel Prescott, Newell Dow and Abel Brown, Jr.

1828 Capt. Benjamin Moulton, Capt. Samuel L. Lamprey and Theodore Loverin
1829 John Nudd, Samuel L. Lamprey and Theodore Loverin
1830 Josiah T. Blake, John W. Shaw, Daniel Prescott
1831 Josiah T. Blake, Daniel Prescott, Ira Blake
1832 Theodore Lovering, Dearborn Blake, Ira Blake
1833 Stephen Kimball, Ezra Chase, Stephen Brown
1834 Stephen Brown, Ezra Chase, Stephen Kimball
1835 Daniel Prescott, Josiah T. Blake, Abel Brown, Jr.
1836 Josiah B. Sanborn, Josiah T. Blake, John Dow
1837 Josiah B. Sanborn, Dearborn Blake, Abel Brown, Jr.
1838 Daniel Prescott, Jeremiah Poor, Abel Brown, Jr.
1839 Daniel Prescott, Jeremiah Poor, Abel Brown, Jr.
1840 Ira Blake, Josiah T. Blake, Robert Titcomb
1841 Daniel Prescott, Abel Brown, Jr., Jeremiah Poor
1842 Charles Hilliard, Levi M. Blake, Michael Gove
1843 Charles Hilliard, Levi M. Blake, Ebenezer Lovering
1844 Rev. Julius C. Blodgett, Jeremiah Tilton, Jr., Robt. Titcomb
1845 William Rowe, Jeremiah Tilton, Jr., Robert Titcomb
1846 William Rowe, Josiah T. Blake, Jonathan Palmer
1847 John W. Shaw, Jonathan Palmer, Josiah T. Blake
1848 Maurice Kimball, Stephen Green, Ebenezer Lovering
1849 Stephen Green, Maurice Kimball, Ebenezer Lovering
1850 Wm. H. Wadleigh, Nathan Dow, Stephen Brown, Jr.
1851 Wm. H. Wadleigh, Nathan Dow, Stephen Brown, Jr.
1852 Wm. H. Wadleigh, Newell Dow, Joseph Brown
1853 Stephen Green, Joseph Brown, Theophilus H. Kimball
1854 Stephen Brown, Jr., T. H. Kimball, John T. Blake
1855 Joseph Poor, Charles Hilliard, Stephen H. Brown
1856 Joseph Poor, Daniel Prescott, John G. Dow
1857 George A. Chase, Daniel Prescott, John G. Dow
1858 Joseph W. Brown, John French, John P. Lamprey
1859 Joseph W. Brown, John French, John P. Lamprey
1860 Col. John T. Blake, Benj. F. Lovering, Thomas C. Shaw
1861 John Page, Jr., Ebenezer Lovering, Woodbridge S. Hobbs
1862 John Page, Jr., Ebenezer Lovering, Woodbridge S. Hobbs
1863 Elder J. C. Blodgett, Stephen Green, Wyatt B. Tasker
1864 Col. Jerry Poor, William D. Fitts, Josiah D. Prescott
1865 Amos T. Rowe, Newell Dow, Wyatt B. Tasker
1866 Amos T. Rowe, Newell Dow, Jonathan Palmer
1867 Weare N. Shaw, Francis Hilliard, Abraham Eaton
1868 Lewis E. Gove, Theodore K. Mace, Daniel E. Palmer

1869 Daniel Prescott, Joseph Poor, Daniel E. Palmer
1870 Amos T. Rowe, Theodore K. Mace, Daniel E. Palmer
1871 Amos T. Rowe, William H. Hodgdon, John G. Dow
1872 William H. Hodgdon, Weare N. Shaw, Daniel E. Palmer
1873 Weare N. Shaw, Jeremiah Poor, David Brown
1874 John A. Blake, Jeremiah Poor, George M. Gove
1875 John Adams Blake, Stephen Green, John F. Gill
1876 Josiah D. Prescott, Samuel Lamprey, James W. W. Brown
1877 Josiah D. Prescott, James W. W. Brown, Joseph N. Austin
1878 Amos T. Rowe, Deacon James Hobbs, John F. Gill
1879 Joseph N. Austin, Leroy S. Sanborn, Amos T. Rowe
1880 Leroy S. Sanborn, Amos T. Rowe, Joseph N. Austin
1881 Leroy S. Sanborn, Charles A. Evans, Daniel E. Palmer
1882 Leroy S. Sanborn, Charles A. Evans, Daniel E. Palmer
1883 Josiah D. Prescott, Frank A. Mace, James W. W. Brown
1884 John A. Blake, Stephen Brown, James W. W. Brown
1885 Josiah D. Prescott, Levi B. Tilton, Oscar W. Brown
1886 Josiah D. Prescott, Levi B. Tilton, Oscar W. Brown
1887 Jeremiah Hilliard, Daniel M. Evans, Joseph W. Brown
1888 Jeremiah Hilliard, Daniel M. Evans, Joseph Weare Brown
1889 Leroy S. Sanborn, James W. W. Brown, Amos M. Evans
1890 Leroy S. Sanborn, James W. W. Brown, Amos M. Evans
1891 Josiah D. Prescott, Thomas C. Shaw, Frank E. Austin
1892 Josiah D. Prescott, Thomas C. Shaw, Frank E. Austin
1893 Leroy S. Sanborn, Joseph N. Austin, Charles N. Robie
1894 Daniel M. Evans, Edward J. Blodgett, Stephen Brown, Jr.
1895 Daniel M. Evans, Edward J. Blodgett, Joseph N. Austin
1896 John F. Gill, Benjamin F. Rowe, Alva Brewer
1897 John F. Gill, Daniel B. Prescott, Wilber K. Parker
1898 John F. Gill, Daniel B. Prescott, Wilber K. Parker
1899 James W. W. Brown, Leroy S. Sanborn, Wilber K. Parker
1900 Robert T. Brown, Stephen Brown, Jr., Jeremiah Hilliard
1901 Stephen Brown, Jr., W. K. Parker, Dan'l B. Prescott
1902 Robt. T. Brown, George A. Prescott, John L. Lamprey
1903 Robert T. Brown, Geo. A. Evans, Geo. A. Prescott
1904 Edward J. Blodgett, Ralph F. Gove, Stephen Brown, Jr.
1905 Edward J. Blodgett, George T. McKenna, Ralph B. Fish
1906 Edw. J. Blodgett, Ralph B. Fish, Roscoe Kimball
1907 Edw. J. Blodgett, Ralph B. Fish, Roscoe Kimball
1908 Ralph B. Fish, Roscoe Kimball, James W. Purington
1909 Roscoe Kimball, James W. Purington, Arthur G. Wadleigh
1910 Arthur G. Wadleigh, Everett S. Mace, Moses W. Evans

1911 Arthur G. Wadleigh, Everett S. Mace, Otis H. Eastman
1912 George A. Prescott, Geo. E. Knight, Otis H. Eastman
1913 George A. Prescott, Arthur G. Wadleigh, Otis H. Eastman
1914 Arthur Wadleigh, Clarence C. Bragg, Alva Brewer
1915 Arthur G. Wadleigh, Geo. A. Prescott, Everett S. Mace
1916 Arthur G. Wadleigh, Alva Brewer, Moses W. Evans
1917 Arthur G. Wadleigh, Alva Brewer, George A. Prescott
1918 Arthur G. Wadleigh, Alva Brewer, Stephen Brown
1919 Arthur G. Wadleigh, Alva Brewer, Stephen Brown
1920 Walter A. Hilliard, Stephen Brown, Alva Brewer
1921 Walter A. Hilliard, Stephen Brown, Alva Brewer
1922 Alva Brewer, Walter A. Hilliard, Stephen Brown
1923 Walter A. Hilliard, Alva Brewer, Herbert E. Brown
1924 Alva Brewer, Herbert E. Brown, Frank Philbrick
1925 Herbert E. Brown, Frank Philbrick, D. Everett Palmer
1926 Frank Philbrick, D. Everett Palmer, Ralph B. Fish
1927 D. Everett Palmer, Ralph B. Fish, Frank Philbrick
1928 Ralph B. Fish, Frank Philbrick, Levi N. Sanborn
1929 Frank Philbrick, Levi N. Sanborn, Henry W. Brown
1930 Levi N. Sanborn, Henry W. Brown, Otis H. Eastman
1931 Henry W. Brown, Otis H. Eastman, Levi N. Sanborn
1932 Otis H. Eastman, Levi N. Sanborn, Henry W. Brown
1933 Levi N. Sanborn, Henry W. Brown, Otis H. Eastman
1934 Otis H. Eastman, Henry W. Brown, George I. Armstrong
1935 Otis H. Eastman, Geo. I. Armstrong, John W. York
1936 Geo. I. Armstrong, Otis H. Eastman, John W. York
1937 George I. Armstrong, John W. York, Otis H. Eastman
1938 Otis H. Eastman, Geo. I. Armstrong, John W. York
1939 John W. York, Geo. I. Armstrong, Otis H. Eastman
1940 George I. Armstrong, John W. York, Otis H. Eastman
1941 John W. York, Otis H. Eastman, Geo. I. Armstrong
1942 Otis H. Eastman, John W. York, Geo. I. Armstrong

CHAPTER 10

HISTORY OF RELIGION, CHURCHES AND MINISTERS — THE COLONIAL CHURCH, PASTORS AND TWO MEETING HOUSES — THE "CHRISTIANS" (BAPTISTS), TWO MEETING HOUSES AND MINISTERS — THE UNION MEETING HOUSE — UNITARIANS AND PASTORS — CONGREGATIONALISTS, MEETING HOUSE AND PASTORS — UNIVERSALISTS AND PREACHERS — QUAKERS, ADVENTISTS, SPIRITUALISTS — THE WOMEN WHO GAVE THE BIBLE — MEMORIES OF "A SABBATH IN THE EIGHTIES"

"We desire to raise in America a bulwark against Anti-Christ."
REV. JOHN WHITE of ENGLAND.

In 1625 Rev. John White of England laid out the plan for colonizing New England. He planned here to establish the Puritan state-church or church-state, a social organization where citizens and church-members were one.

Under his influence the session of the Massachusetts General Court in 1631 ordained that only Church-Members could vote. Each local settlement was a religious-political organization and the one public building would be the Meeting-House where citizens and church-members met to worship God and govern themselves as a civic body. For near 200 years this plan was supreme.

Kensington followed the plan of Rev. John White. We have noted that the first business of the business when incorporated was to hold several meetings to settle a minister, and as soon as this was accomplished there came the organization of the Colonial Church. When all was ready both Hampton Falls and Hampton Churches gave their aid.

Oct. 4, 1737 the Hampton Falls Church voted to dismiss 22 men and 35 women members to constitute the new church at Kensington.

Oct. 6, the church was solemnly organized.

Oct. 7, the church at Hampton voted to dismiss the pastor-elect and 6 other members to the Kensington Church, thus 63 members started the Colonial Church. Some early lists name two persons by name of Elizabeth Sanborn; this would give the new church 64 members.

We have preserved in the handwriting of Mr. Fogg an account of the establishment of the Church and a copy of the Covenant adopted and subscribed to by its members. We quote as follows from Mr. Fogg:

"A Brief Account of the Establishment of the Church of Christ in Kensington

"CHRIST the Great Head of the Church, in his good Providence hath marvellously encreased the number of Christian Churches in this

land and the same divine Grace, which built up others hath planted a Church in this Place in the manner as follows (Viz.)

"The Several members of which the Church constituted, having sought and obtained regular dismissions from the respective Churches to which they belonged requested the assistance of some Neighboring Ministers to join with them in keeping a day of Fasting and Prayer to organize them into a Church State in this Place.

"Accordingly, on the sixth day of October 1737 they were assisted by the following Gentlemen, who performed their several parts as follows, (viz.) The Rev. Ward Cotton of Hampton began with Prayer. The Rev'd. John Odlin of Exeter Preached from Isaiah 56.6, 'And taketh hold of my Covenant,' and the Rev'd Joseph Whipple of Hampton Falls propounded to those then to be organized the following Covenant (viz.)

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed, apprehending ourselves called of God to join together (in a) Church State in humble Dependence on free grace for Assistance and acceptance in the Presence of God, his holy angels and this assembly, avouch the Lord to be our God. We declare our serious Belief of the Christian Religion as contained in the Sacred Scriptures, heartily resolving to conform ourselves to the Rules of that Holy Religion as long as we live in the World. We give up ourselves to the Lord Jehovah who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and take him this day to be our God, our Father, our Saviour, our Leader and receive him as our Portion forever."

"We promise by the help of his Spirit and grace to cleave to him by Faith and Gospel Obedience as becometh his Covenant People forever, making, at all times, the holy Work of God the Rule of our Faith and Practice and depending on his Promise and powerful grace, we desire, intend and engage to walk together as a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Faith and Order of the Gospel, so far as we shall have the same revealed to us, conscientiously attending the worship of God and the Sacraments of his new Testament."

The Members of the Hampton Falls Church Living in its West Section Dismissed to Form a Church at Kensington

John Prescott	Jedediah Blake	Mary Shaw
Rob Roe	Nathan Clough	Huldah Chapman
John Batchelder	Nathaniel Prescott	Sarah Batchelder
Abraham Sanborn	Hannah Blake	Priscilla James
John Weare	Margaret Brown	Elizabeth Tilton
Richard Sanborn	Abigail Batchelder	Elizabeth Row
James Sanborn	Sarah Dow	Abigail Prescott

Abraham Sanborn, Jr.	Deborah Sanborn	Sarah Clifford
Hezekiah Blake	Joanna Smith	Bethiel Palmer
Eben Brown	Elizabeth Sanborn	Apphia Row
Wadleigh Cram	Ruth Cram	Rachel T———
Abel Ward	Ann Blake	Hannah Tilton
Moses Blake	Ann Tilton	Margaret Weare
Edward Locke ?	Elizabeth Dow	Ruth Row
Wm. Dearborn	Lydia Smith	Leah Row
Simon Batchelder	Deborah Weare	Mehitable Blake
Joseph Draper	Phoebe Draper	Dorothy Moulton
Benjamin Prescott	Elizabeth Gove	Ann Prescott
Joseph Tilton	Mary Dearborn	Joanna Blake

Members Dismissed from Hampton to Kensington

October 7, the church at Hampton voted to dismiss the pastor elect and six of its members " to be embodied into a church state in the third parish of this town."

Mr. Jeremiah Fogg, ye Pastor elect
Edward Tucke and Sarah, his wife
Edward Locke
Hannah Shaw, wife of Joseph Shaw
Widow Sarah Batchelder
Abigail Cram, wife of Benjamin Cram

Thus the new church started with a membership of 64; some of the lists speak of two Elizabeth Sanborns, if that be not a repetition, then the membership was 65.

Further Members of the Hampton Falls Church Later Dismissed to Kensington

June 4, 1739, the Hampton Falls Church dismissed to Kensington Moses Blake and Abigail, his wife.

March 7, 1742, John Prescott was dismissed to Kensington.

February 9, 1743, Joseph Chase Hilliard was dismissed to Kensington.

April 14, 1745, Abigail Longfellow, now wife of Benjamin Brown, was dismissed to Kensington.

In the mind of the New England settler each parish was a Theocracy. The members of the church were the state, and the pastor was not alone a spiritual teacher, he was the ordained leader against Anti-Christ. When he spoke from the sacred desk his words had supreme authority. Into that sacred desk unordained laymen could only enter upon the invitation of the pastor as when upon hearing of the Battle of Lexington, Parson Fogg invited Winthrop Rowe to enter the pulpit and an-

nounce that he would form a company to march to Boston and fight for independence against the British.

Rev. Jeremiah Fogg, the First Pastor of Kensington

Although his position gave the pastor tremendous power, and although human nature can seldom possess power without abusing it, and thus the average New England pastor became an arrogant man, there is no evidence that Mr. Fogg was of this type. On the contrary, he seems to have been broad-minded far beyond his day and a genial man in his contact with his fellows. The statement defending his theological views which he sent to the council which in 1789 met to dismiss him from the ministry, indicates that he was a man of fine common sense, able in a dogmatic period to look at matters with the good sense and sane judgement of a Ben Franklin. To quote from that statement: —

" Reason, that divine mark of distinction in human nature, was given us by the same Being who gave us the scriptures. And I have ever made it my practice to exercise it, in reconciling the more difficult passages in the Sacred writings; and, whenever I find gentlemen of education and ability, I find an inclination, as well as a duty, to converse freely on subjects of controversy, that all may be the better established in the religion of Jesus."

The Rev. Jeremiah Fogg, the pilgrim pastor of Kensington, was born at Hampton in 1712; he graduated 13th in a class of 37 at Harvard in 1730. He worked a few years on the farm and then choosing the profession of the minister studied theology with Mr. Whipple. He married Elizabeth Parsons, a daughter of Rev. Joseph Parsons, of Salisbury, and brought his wife to the stately home built in Kensington. He is described as a large man, genial and hospitable; he was evidently a good scholar and an independent thinker, and soon became known as one of the few clergy who dared revolt against the harsh doctrines of John Calvin. Over half a century he faithfully ministered to his flock, during which time he baptized 1,235 people, solemnized 402 marriages and preached twice every Sunday. But the Arminian controversy waxed hotter, and finally the ultra orthodox called a council to try their pastor for his liberal views; this was January 20, 1789; it failed to uphold the opposition to Parson Fogg; but his enemies persisted and in July of the same year another council met at the home of Newell Healey and advised Parson Fogg to leave the ministry, unless he retract certain statements. This he refused to do.

The aged pastor had many friends, however, Deacon Page, Deacon John Prescott Blake, Captain Winthrop Rowe, Caleb Shaw and John

Lane, being foremost in his support; but the parish in September voted 53 to 50 to dismiss their aged and faithful minister (verily nothing has ever been found which was more cruel than Calvinistic religion). The parish was in a state of heat, but a compromise was finally affected, by which the parish came together again on November 2, and voted Parson Fogg a pension, if he withdraw from the ministerial office. The pension, as of Sept. 20, consisted of $75 annually and five cords of hard wood during his natural life; but he did not long bother his parish. He entered on "rest from his labors" 30 days later, aged 78.

Rev. Naphtali Shaw's Pastorate

The Parish was three years without a pastor following Mr. Fogg's death, and then called Mr. Naphtali Shaw of Bridgewater, Mass., a graduate of Dartmouth College in the class of 1790.

Mr. Shaw at once married a young lady of Bradford, Vt., and in November of 1792 came to Kensington and moved into the old Edmund and Obadiah Johnson house, where he lived till next year, when there was put up the new and stately manse for himself and bride, which house is now the home of Mrs. Eliza Evans and her daughter Eunice.

Mr. Shaw was ordained January 30, 1793, and remained pastor till he resigned in 1812 and was dismissed April 20, 1812. His letter of resignation was published by the late Rev. Mr. Osgood in THE EXETER NEWS-LETTER of June 6, 1884. In it he states he resigns because of his health, though he moved at once to Bradford, Vt., bought a farm and lived to the age of 90.

It is probable that the successes of the Christian Baptists here in 1810 and 1811 and 1812, made Mr. Shaw feel that a new and younger man was needed to maintain the prestige of the Colonial Church.

Rev. Nathaniel Kennedy's Short Pastorate

The third pastor of the Colonial Church was Rev. Nathaniel Kennedy. He was a Scotch-Irish immigrant from Glasgow and became pastor June 13, 1813. He came to Kensington from Litchfield, Conn., where he had held a pastorate since coming to America.

Mr. Kennedy was ultra orthodox, a follower of John Knox, and his ideas did not fit well with a congregation that had listened to the liberal views of Mr. Fogg and the genial ideas of Mr. Shaw. Then again the Christian-Baptists as they were called, really the sect called themselves merely "Christians," were securing many converts. The year Mr. Kennedy came (1813), they built their first Meeting House; Elijah Shaw, a local boy, was preaching in that denomination, and there was

much leaning toward the spontaneity and enthusiasm of the "Christian" meetings, and this thrived the more in face of the cold John Knox orthodoxy of Kennedy, so he gave up and was dismissed July 1, 1816.

He did not seek another pulpit but became a teacher in the city of Philadelphia, where he died in 1843 or 1844.

Rev. Joseph A. Long as Supply

The Colonial Church was weakened by the Christian-Baptists and the Unitarians and it never settled another pastor.

Rev. Joseph A. Long, son of Nathan Long of Amesbury, graduated from Harvard in 1818 and was a supply here for many months. He was ordained here in April, 1822. Later he was a pastor in Hooksett, N. H.

The families of the old Colonial Church became fewer and fewer, they struggled to hold some meetings in the old Meeting House and later in the Union Church, but their influence waned. They had several supplies well liked, the Reverend Messrs. Barrett, Whiting, Peter Holt, Hildreth, Downs, Farley et al. In the late "fifties" Rev. George Campbell of Bradford, Mass. was here a great deal and preached and worked with such success that in October, 1859 an orthodox Congregational Church was organized. In 1862 the Rev. E. D. Eldridge of Hampton was called and installed on June 30, 1864, and during his ministry saw the Congregationalist Church built, as we shall note under the history of the Congregationalists.

Kensington's Two Colonial Meeting Houses

In the winter of 1732, January and February, the people of East Kingston and the upper parts of South Road and Stumpfield in Kensington, decided to ask the Assembly to grant them a charter for a new parish to take in their sections. Accordingly they cut and drew in lumber and had a raising and put up the frame of a substantial Meeting House on one of the hills over the present line between East Kingston and Kensington. They presented their petition in March.

All of Drinkwater and North Road and lower Hog-Pen Road in Kensington at once got up a petition of protest against such action, and to make their protest more effective they drew in lumber and had a raising on June 25, 1732, of the frame of a Meeting House of good size on what was then called Drinkwater Section, on a knoll of the farm of Deacon Abraham Moulton, near the old Fellows brook, now the land of Mrs. Annie Philbrick.

The towns of Kingston and Hampton Falls held well attended meetings that also protested the new parish and the petition was dismissed in the legislature in early summer of 1733.

Elihu Chase at once deeded to the inhabitants a "Meeting-House Acre" on the upper end of Hog-Pen farm for a Meeting House and the frame erected June 25, 1732 was moved there and built into a Meeting House.

This spot was exactly where the present Union (Universalist) Meeting House stands. It was completed so that Rev. Mr. Whipple came up on February 3, 1734, and preached the first sermon in it. He came at other times during the winter and sent at some times Mr. Jeremiah Fogg of Hampton who was a graduate of Harvard and was studying theology with him.

In the fall of 1734 arrangements were made for a regular winter parish there in the winter of 1735, and again in 1736 and 1737.

The new Meeting House seems to have been agreeable to all parts of Kensington territory and eastern Kingston began to urge a new parish in eastern Kingston, stopping at Kensington line.

One who has read early history in New England, knows how sharp was generally the feelings in early towns over where to locate the Meeting Houses and school-houses, and it was a happy event that Kensington could so readily decide upon the location of their Meeting House.

The first building must have been of considerable size for the records speak of its galleries. It was evidently a very plain building for not till 1755 was it entirely completed, and at the same time newly shingled. Again the early school kept there in warm months had to be kept in Mr. Evans' house in winter, and there is early record of the resort to Mr. Evans' by gatherings to discuss civic matters because of the cold.

It was used till May 19, 1771; that day the last meeting was held there and Rev. Mr. Fogg preached from the text, "We wept when we remembered Zion," Psalm 137:1.

As the initial religious home of the parish and the scene of their early struggles to become a "church-state" it evidently was a dear spot to them and there must have been tugs of many hearts that Sabbath Day.

The following Sunday, May 19, the first service was held in the new Meeting House, and the old one was sold and taken down or moved.

The Second Erected Colonial Meeting House, Dedicated May 19, 1771, Taken Down by a Committee and Oxen, Saturday, March 28, 1846

In 1770 the town had become a prosperous town with a population of slightly above 800. At its March meeting and during the summer a

move for a new and larger Meeting House became active, and as a result a new Colonial Meeting House was built and ready for use the following spring.

The records state that the new Meeting House had galleries on three sides, 40 windows to well-light the room, elevated pulpit with seats beneath for the tything-men. No stoves. It was built as near as maybe after the pattern of the North-Hill (Northampton) Meeting House.

The old Salisbury Meeting House stood a mile this side of the present Rocky Hill Meeting House; its pastor was Rev. Mr. Parsons, father-in-law of Rev. Mr. Fogg, and when later they put up the present Meeting House their carpenters patterned after Kensington as we had patterned after Northampton, thus the Rocky Hill house shows what ours was like.

The only likeness of the Kensington Meeting House that exists is a very small drawing of its front door on a map made by Thomas Rand, Jr. of Rye in 1823, and now in the N. H. Historical Library at Concord. It stood where the Town Hall now stands, there then being no road down the hill toward the Brick school-house. The level tract before the building and to where the Congregationalist Church now stands was called Meeting-House Parade, and it was there that the militia company held its spring meeting and maneuvers. Opposite was the home of William Evans and a blacksmith shop. Between the old graveyard and Frank Poor's barn stood the home of Elisha Purington and Joshua Batchelder, who at different times ran the shop. In 1758 John Fifield of Kingston bought house and shop of Nathaniel Healey who had come to own the property.

Some of the Records on the Second Colonial Meeting House

From the warrant of the special Town Meeting of Oct. 5, 1770: —

" By the Request of a petition of a number of the inhabitants of said Kensington, to see if said town will vote to build a new meeting house for the Publick Worship of God, upon these conditions, that if the sale of pews in said meeting house shall amount to more money than to build said Meeting House, then overplush money shall go to those persons for satisfaction, that have not already given up their Right and Privileges of the pews in the old Meeting House. . . . .

" And for the Parish to vote where to sett the new Meeting House, whether where the Meeting House now stands or the most convenient place near the center of the town, and to come to some methods as the Parish shall think best as to the building and the business building the same and the size."

The vote recorded was as follows: —

"Voted to build a new Meeting House for the Publick Worship of God upon these conditions, that if the sale of pews in said Meeting House shall amount to more money than to build said house, overplush money shall go to those persons for Satisfactions that have not already given up their right and privileges of the pews in the old Meeting House."

Those who dissent are:

John Graves	Henry Sanborn	John Page
Richard Sanborn	Jeremiah Tilton	John Page, Jr.
Samuel Hobbs	Josiah Brown	Samuel Lamprey
Jeremiah Sanborn	John Tilton	Ebenezer Brown
Jonathan Brown	Henry Lamprey	Capt. Gove

Further voted that the new Meeting House be built near where the old Meeting House now stands.

Voted as to bigness it be near the bigness of the North Hill Meeting House.

Voted to chuse a committee to build the new Meeting House.

Voted that Captain Lane, Deacon Hilyard, Nathaniel Healey, Esq. and Joseph Wadleigh, Jr. and Joseph Dow be the above committee.

It appears from the above records and from those of other special meetings held, that the majority were willing to give up their pew-rights in the old House and buy new when the new House was completed, but this was not true of all. To satisfy these not so willing the money that might accrue over the cost of the new House was to be given to them, with which they could buy new pews in the new House.

But even this did not satisfy them, as we see by the above named 15 dissenters.

These difficulties were ironed out before Dec. 3, 1770, for on that day at another special meeting the vote of the Oct. 5th meeting was revoked and disallowed and a new building committee was chosen.

Capt. Ezekiel Worthen, Ebenezer Lovering, Moses Shaw and Jonathan Brown were named committee, were ordered to give bond to build and sell pews at auction and make "satisfaction" to the dissenters. This committee had already plans drawn up which were accepted. The Building Committee was to be given six choice pews in the new House for their labors.

At the March meeting 1771 the building was well under construction and a vote was taken to see if the town would put a steeple on the Meeting House and have crowns over the windows. Decided in the negative.

It was completed sufficiently for the first service on May 19, 1771, but a special meeting of Aug. 31 was held as to final number of floor pews and the width of the "alleys" between the pews. At another special meeting Oct. 28 the building was complete and the town voted to accept it and the next day, Oct. 29, the pews on the floor were sold. The Gallery pews had been sold earlier in January.

PERSONS WHO BOUGHT THE FLOOR PEWS IN THE MEETING HOUSE
(The sums paid are reckoned in pounds, shillings, pence)

No. 1 to Nathaniel Ward	30.00.0
No. 2 to Jeremiah Sanborn	22.40.0
No. 3 to Joseph Chase Hilyard	17.10.0
No. 4 to Samuel Clifford	15.05.0
No. 5 to Nathaniel Weare	15.13.0
No. 6 to John Lane	15.00.0
No. 7 to Benj'a Eastman	10.09.0
No. 8 to Abraham Sanborn	11.02.0
No. 9 given up to the benefit of the Parish	00.00.0
No. 10 to Capt. Ezekiel Worthen	10.07.0
No. 11 to Ebenezer Clifford	15.01.0
No. 12 to Jonathen Brown	15.03.0
No. 13 to Joseph Clifford	13.00.0
No. 14 to Stephen Page	11.09.0
No. 15 to Benj'a Tilton	10.00.0
No. 16 to Jeremiah Fellows	08.13.0
No. 17 to Winthrop Rowe	10.15.0
No. 18 to Jeremiah Sanborn	11.18.0
No. 19 to Henry Lampry	11.00.0
No. 20 to Nathaniel Dow	15.01.0
No. 21 to Benj'a Rowe, Esq.	11.08.0
No. 22 to Joseph Tilton, Esq.	11.11.0
No. 23 to Nathaniel Weare	11.01.0
No. 24 to Peter Gilman	10.01.0
No. 25 to John Weare	16.05.0
No. 26 to Stephen Fogg	16.10.0
No. 27 to Ebenezer Lovrin	15.14.0
No. 28 to Moses Shaw	17.00.0
No. 29 to Jeremiah Batchelder	11.10.0
No. 30 to Samuel Darbon	12.01.0
No. 31 to Jesse Tuck	11.06.0
No. 32 to Ebenezer Clifford	10.10.0
No. 33 to Aaron Page	10.12.0

No. 34 to Stephen Fogg	10.10.0
No. 35 to John Sherbun	10.10.0
No. 36 to Caleb Shaw	10.10.0
Dated at Kensington October the 29th: 1771	466.15

PERSONS WHO BOUGHT THE GALLERY PEWS

The gallery pews were sold at public vendue on Jan. 7, 1771 with the following results: —

No. 1 to John Shaw	10.04.0
No. 2 to Caleb Brown	09.10.0
No. 3 to Ebenezer Loviring	09.16.0
No. 4 to Nathaniel Ward	08.05.0
No. 5 to Enoch Worthen	10.01.0
No. 6 to Ebenezer Clifford	09.11.0
No. 7 to Joseph Tilton Esq. and returned into the committee hands	04.05.0
No. 8 to Caleb Brown and returned into the committee hands	04.10.0
No. 9 to Simeon Smith	04.18.0
No. 10 to William Evens and returned into the committee hands	04.18.0
No. 11 to John Shaw and returned into the committee hands	04.10.0
No. 12 to Jacob Worthen and returned into the committee hands	05.00.0
No. 13 to Jonathan Brown	04.19.0
No. 14 to James Fogg	06.17.0
No. 15 to Enoch Worthen and returned into the committee hands	05.01.0
No. 16 to Jeremiah Sanborn	05.14.0
No. 17 to John Lane	05.00.0
No. 18 to Stephen Page	05.01.0
No. 19 to Moses Shaw	04.11.0
No. 21 to Abba Brown	05.01.0
	127.12
	L S D

FOUR ADDITIONAL PEWS IN 1800

July 14, 1800 the rights to build four additional floor pews were sold at Public Vendue. The rights were bought as follows:

Pew 41 Nathaniel Dearborn for $55
Pew 42 Capt. Jonathan Flanders $60

Pew 43	Robert Prescott	$68.25
Pew 44	John Lamprey	$69.25

March 1825, Pew No. 11, put up at publick vendue, purchased for $30.00 by Jonathan Palmer.

The Colonial Meeting House Taken Down in 1846

The Union Meeting House, built in 1839 and 1840, was dedicated and used for religious purposes in the Spring of 1840. This left the Colonial Meeting House used only for civic business. It was a large building and needed expenditures for repair and the citizens were soon discussing the advisability of taking it down and building a smaller town hall.

At the March Meeting, 1844, Gilman Lamprey and others petitioned an article in the warrant to do this. The article was negatived.

The March Meeting, 1845, voted that the town relinquish all its rights in the Meeting House to the pew owners provided that the pew owners remove the Meeting House within three months " from the place where it now stands."

March, 1846, voted to choose a committee of disinterested persons to appraise the pews in " The Old Congregational Meeting House."

Voted to tear down the Old Meeting House, pile it up in piles, while the selectmen call a Town Meeting to dispose of the same. Levi Lane of Hampton Falls, Josiah Robinson of Exeter, and Charles Sanborn of East Kingston were chosen committee to appraise the pews.

The names of the committee to tear down the Meeting House are not given but the record states that on March 28, 1846, " It being a Saturday, twelve or fifteen men with their oxen in one day, without injury to any person, according to the vote of the town at Town Meeting March 10, the Congregational Meeting House was taken down."

Messrs. Lane, Robinson and Sanborn, appraisers mentioned above, appraised the value of pews to owners at $2.25 each. There was much protest against this low value, and one owner would not accept it.

The value of pews was placed high in Colonial days, as is seen by the initial sale, noted above, and as for instance may be seen by any record of transfers. For instance, the pew originally bought by Ebenezer Clifford, for 15 pounds and one shilling, Pew Number eleven, was sold at auction in 1825, and was bought by Jonathan Palmer for $30.00

A Memory of the Colonial Meeting House

Mrs. Rosa (Brown) Akerman, at the 50th anniversary of the Congregational Church, Oct. 9, 1909, wrote the following memory of the old Edifice.

"It was a high room, the singers in the gallery being far above us. The pews were square with seats on three sides, no seat on the entrance side, entrance being through a door which was carefully closed and hooked.

"The seats were on hinges, turned back when the congregation stood when prayer was offered, and coming down with a bang when the prayer was ended. Also there was much clatter as they were turned back as people arose for the prayer.

"Directly before the pulpit and beneath it were three long pews for the families of the minister and the deacons.

"The high pulpit was reached by winding stairs and over it hung the large sounding-board, which my childish mind looked upon with fears, lest it drop on the minister's head. I was also told as a little girl that little girls or boys who did not behave were locked in under that high pulpit to stay all the service.

"Beneath the pulpit and facing the congregation sat the tything men whose duty it was to preserve order. They had long sticks from which hung a tuft of horse-hair, which they were to use to tickle the nose of people who fell asleep, but that practice was given up before my day.

"There was no place for a fire in the Meeting House and at noons, between services, the women went to a near-by house or the tavern to get fresh coals for their fire-boxes, or to get fresh foot-stones, left there to heat as they came to church at the first service."

Kensington's "Christian" Church

The First Evangelical Religious Movement to Compete with the Orthodox "Congregational" Church

Abner Jones at Lyndon, Vt. in September 1801, formed the first "Christian church." A second was soon formed in Hanover, N. H. in 1802, and from that time till after the 1844 second Advent expectation of the "Millerites," the sect made rapid progress. Abner Jones later lived and died in Exeter. He was the John the Baptist of the new sect, for its Messiah was Elder Elias Smith of Portsmouth. The movement was a rebuke to the growing number of sects among the Christians, which it rebuked by creating still another sect. They dropped denominational names and creeds and called themselves merely "Christians" and took as their only creed the New Testament. Their followers were very zealous and built many small churches, particularly in Eastern Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and Maine. They emphasized the morals of believers, rather than their beliefs, and made heroic attempts to cause their membership to live uprightly. They believed in an itinerant rather than a settled ministry. Abner Jones and Elias

Smith were ably supported by Elder Mark Fernald and Elder Elijah Shaw, the latter a native of Kensington, and in later years by Elder Daniel Pike, who was born in Hampton Falls, but lived in Kensington from the time he was one year of age.

Almost contemporary with the activities of the Christians in New England there was originated in the South and in Ohio a similar group with the same name and same general ideas, though I have never found the connection between the two movements.

The Christians had powerful and interesting preachers who worked along evangelistic lines, much as was later done by Dwight L. Moody. They were strong in their rebukes of intemperance and sex-immorality. Their sermons were emotion-stirring appeals, followed by testimony and confessions by their hearers and the meetings sometimes went to great length in the unleashed emotions of their congregation.

The old orthodox religion and its services compared to the Christians was stiff and formal, and then again, the orthodox state church had been an aristocratic organization, where the Christians were thoroughly democratic. For these reasons the Christian movement had strong appeal for the people of that period. Lonesome women who saw no one in their homes go by in the roads for days and whose lives were drab and drear found a great outlet in the long meetings and the joyous singing of the Christian hymns, a major part of which dealt with the subject of Heaven and the joys of future life, and compared to the stiff preaching of the orthodox preachers the free and easy discourses of the Christian creatures were full of interest.

Hampton Falls was fired by the sect and a church of the new order was organized there under Elder William Brown who had been locally ordained in 1805. Brown's major supports were Ebenezer Leavitt of Hampton and Theodore Coffin of the same town and John Lamprey of Kensington. The Christian meetings in Hampton Falls drew throngs of people from the surrounding towns, and when Leavitt was ordained in 1808 the meeting was held in a pasture, the building being far too small. After his ordination Elder Leavitt came with his Kensington followers to this town to hold meetings. He was aided by Elders Samuel Rand and Douglas Farnham and there was "a great outpouring of the spirit" and many were baptized and joined the Hampton Falls movement. When I was a lad the older Universalists used to delight to tell of the 1808 and 1809 and 1810 meetings of the "Christians." They were held in open months in the open air, in a pasture which is now the addition to the cemetery, and some converts became so ecstatic that they rolled over and over on the grass, shouting and praying.

The Local "Christian" Organization

(Its Records, Etc.)

The first organization was on December 30, 1822, and the quaint record reads: "Though many were baptized from time to time, no church was organized for some years, but after many changes and trials we came to the conclusion that it was our duty to organize a church according to the New Testament of the Brethren agreed to walk in the fellowship of the Gospel of Christ and agreeable to the rule of the New Testament." Those who signed the original agreement were: Jonathan Fellows, Josiah Prescott, Elijah Shaw, John W. Shaw, Daniel Prescott, Abraham Rowe, Benjamin Prescott, Jr., George F. R. Wadleigh, David Prescott, Jesse Harvey, John Gilman, Newell Dow, Hiram Harvey, Daniel Pike, John Collins. Females: Sally Shaw, Polly Pike, Ruth Shaw, Frances R. Prescott, Nancy Dow, Olive Fellows, Harriet Livermore, Frances Prescott, Lovina Gilman, Nancy Shaw, Widder Polly Wadley, Hanner Page, Sally Hoag, Nancy Prescott, Eliza Palmer.

Before 1822 Kensington "Christians" who had any official connections with the movement, had them at Hampton Falls. Before the law of 1819 members of a religious body other than the Congregational Parish could be exempt from paying taxes to the Parish Minister by showing certificates of membership in such other body.

Thus in the Town Records I find certificates presented by local "Christians" in 1810 and 1811, showing their membership with Elder William Brown's society at Hampton Falls. The names follow:

1810

Ensign Stephen Brown	Stephen Brown, third	John Brown, Jr.
Josiah Brown	Samuel Brown	Richard Dow
John W. Shaw		

1811

Elijah Shaw Joseph Shaw

BAPTISMS 1810-1813

Daniel Prescott, an active man in town, representative in 1862, was one of the leaders in the formation and activities of the Christian Church. He was one of those baptized in 1810, and in his old desk, I recently found listed the twenty-eight baptisms in that year, with six baptized in 1811 and four baptized in 1813.

1810

Jonathan Fellows	Sally T. Brown	Theba Brown
Josiah Prescott	Mahala Brown	Stephen Brown
Daniel Prescott	Anna Brown	Elijah Shaw and wife
Jonathan James	Olby Fellows	Oliver James
Newel Dow	May Lampray	Thos. W. Shaw
Cotten S. Brown	Eunice Lampray	Samuel Lampray
Benjamin Fellows	Thom. Brown	Lucy Brown
Joel Lane	Stephen Brown, Jr.	Serena Brown
Lucy James	Nathaniel Fellows	Elijah Shaw, Jr.

1811

Joseph Shaw	Sary Tilton	John Shaw
John Gould	William Blake	Mary Prescott

1813

Ruth James	Sally Palmer	John Low
Betsy Shaw		

OTHER EARLY RECORDS

Apart from the above rescued early records kept by Daniel Prescott I have found no regular records beginning earlier than 1838. At that date there was a boom with the "Christian" movement in Kensington; there had been successful meetings the few years previous, and they were getting ready to build a new Church, thus they started an official record-book in which they put down those who joined the Society 1838 and 1839 and those already members, and they record the baptisms of 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843.

October 12 to October 14, 1843 were exciting days with the "Christians." A sharp division arose over their attitude toward the Miller movement, which was expecting the Second Advent of Christ in 1844. Several members of the Society withdrew, the local movement became divided, and after 1844 and Christ did not return, there was much ridicule suffered, some became Second Adventists, and the movement was never so strong again.

The "Christian" Meeting Houses

The first Meeting House was built 1813. Dec. 24, 1813 Robert Prescott "In consideration of the love and good-will I have for the Baptist Society in Kensington," granted and leased 30 rods of land (the lot of the present Grange Hall) and on this lot was built a small Meeting House. This was sold in 1838 to Mrs. Bethiah Locke Palmer

of Palmer Lane and moved there to become the home of her granddaughter, Almira Palmer Dow (Mrs. Jerry Dow), for many years. It is now the home of Edward Bowen of Everett, Mass.

In 1827 a society according the law of 1819 was formed, and on April 9, 1838 a movement for a new Meeting House originated.

Daniel Prescott, Ezra Chase, Newell Dow, John W. Shaw and Edmund Rowell were chosen Building Committee.

This committee agreed with Josiah B. Sanborn, Dearborn T. Blake, and William Gove, to build a new Meeting House, 50 by 40 feet, 16 foot posts, 50 pews, 7 windows with 40 lights, 9 x 12 gable like Hampton Falls Christian Meeting House, to be built on the spot from which the old building would be moved, for $1,100.00, to be completed by Dec. 15, 1838. The agreement was signed by all parties Aug. 14, 1838. Extras added cost $35.75 making the total cost $1,135.75. An outright purchase of land from Robert Prescott cost $5.25. John Blaisdell received $52.50 for the underpinning. $100.20 for furnishings.

Samuel Beck received $23.50 for painting, which with furnishings brought the total cost to $1,290.15.

The sale of the 44 pews netted $1,014. Public auction of the old building brought $60.50, leaving a debt of $235.00.

This Meeting House is now the Grange Hall. Its last use for religious purposes being on August 6, 1899, when Rev. Roland D. Sawyer preached a sermon against profanity, and in 1900 Capt. Elijah Shaw bought the building from the living members of the Society for $150.00 and sold it to John F. Gill for the same price, who presented it to the local Grange for a Hall.

The dedication sermon of the 1838 Meeting House was preached by Elder David Millard, one of the early distinguished ministers of the denomination, and frequently a preacher at Kensington meetings.

It was a prosperous time with the "Christians" when the church was built. In addition to the new church at Kensington, the "Chirstians" in the same year built new churches at Stratham, Rye, Hampton Falls, and other towns. Elders Abner Jones, Mark Fernald, Elias Smith, Elijah Shaw, Noah Piper and others came frequently to the new building and drew congregations that taxed its seating capacity.

Activities of the "Christian" Church

The "Christians" not believing in a settled ministry, no attempt was made to call a pastor for the church organized December 30, 1822, but two years later, November 19, 1824, the church voted to ask Elder John Harriman, of Newton, to "take care of the Church." Ministers were loosely attached, and in most every town where there was a Christian

Church, there was also an ordained elder, who supplied when not away on a missionary journey.

Elder Murray, Settled Pastor

The only regular pastor, settled by Council, the church ever had was Elder David B. Murray of Haverhill, Mass., who settled in 1867.

Elder Millard, a great favorite in Kensington, preached the sermon. Elder Murray was ordained and settled Sept. 17, 1867 and remained here two years as pastor.

Elijah Shaw Converted and Ordained a Christian Elder

One of the young converts of the Leavitt meetings in 1813 was Elijah Shaw, son of Elijah and Deborah (Nudd) Shaw, who was born December 19, 1793, being thus 20 years of age at the time of the Leavitt meeting. The next summer the young 21 year old pastor was ordained. Mr. Shaw labored in the ministry at Portland, Maine, Franklin, N. H., Exeter, N. H., Fall River, Mass., and visited many places in New England, New York and the Central West. While located at Fall River, he edited the Christian Herald. He lived here in Kensington several years, preaching at the local church, when not away on a missionary journey. He died in Fall River in 1851.

Charles Allen Eastman Converted and Ordained

Charles Allen Eastman, converted in the local meetings, was ordained an elder June 30, 1884.

Elder Julius C. Blodgett

Elder Blodgett was born in Franklin, N. H., September 6, 1806, and was ordained at Sanbornton, N. M., in 1831. He preached at Newton, Franklin, Exeter, and Kensington. He lived the latter years of his life in this town and died here November 26, 1878, aged 72. He at one time was also one of the editors of the Sect's Organ, "The Christian Herald," and during the years he lived here followed the example of Elder Shaw, preaching at the local church and carrying on his farm when not away on a missionary tour.

Elder Daniel Prescott Pike

Elder Pike was the son of Sewell and Mary (Prescott) Pike. He was born in Hampton Falls, March 1, 1815. He came to Kensington when he was one year old. After finishing the district school, he attended Phillips Academy at Exeter, where he graduated in the same class with the late Sam Parsons Tuck. While he became an ardent evangelist,

Tuck became to a considerable extent, the village agnostic. When Tuck's mother died he placed on her stone the epitaph, "A live dog is better than a dead lion." After teaching school several years Mr. Pike was ordained July 5, 1837 in the Christian Church at Hampton Falls. He preached in Hampton Falls two and a half years and then moved to Newburyport where he organized a Christian Church and built a Meeting House. In later years as his Newburyport following fell away he practically owned his Meeting House and was as independent as he desired. He was a strong enemy of intemperance and an ardent member of the "Christian" sect. His mother was one of the charter members of the Kensington Church and he grew up in its atmosphere. He was a large man, with a Websterian head, and a Whitfield voice, an earnest preacher arousing one minute to laughter and the next minute to tears and always drew a large congregation. He held at one time a series of revival meetings in Merrimac at the close of which he baptized 95 persons. He came to Kensington a great many times to baptize in Poor's Mill Pond converts made during the winter. Elder Pike patched out his Newburyport living by holding a position as Deputy Collector in the Custom House. A strong Republican, it was expected that in 1884 when Cleveland was elected he would lose his position in the Custom House. Soon after the inauguration of Cleveland, Elder Pike closed his church, left on what he said was to be a fishing trip. In reality he packed his bag and went to Washington, D. C., to call upon his friends to use their influence to secure a re-appointment. After a hot campaign several Newburyport Democrats went to Washington with their endorsement to get the appointment, only to find that Elder Pike had been down there on his fishing trip and got re-appointed.

Elder Pike continued to preach many times each year at the local church until the time of his death. The writer first heard him when he was but three years of age, and when his mother removed him from the outside of the church building when he insisted on singing in his childish voice after the hymn was closed. A little later the writer, after hearing Elder Pike, would go home and place the chairs in the position of a congregation, get out the Bible, and play preacher, pounding the Bible and shouting in the most approved Pike style.

In 1887, Elder Pike celebrated 50 years in the ministry by preaching at Newburyport and Kensington, and stated he had preached 7800 sermons, delivered 1000 temperance lectures and baptized 900 people.

Decline and End of the "Christian" Movement

Oct. 9, 1859, the "Orthodox" organized the Congregationalist Church, and after two years of supply by Rev. George Campbell of

Bradford, in 1862 they called Rev. F. D. Eldredge of Hampton as pastor. Under the direction of Mr. Eldredge the Congregationalists built and May 28, 1866 dedicated their beautiful new Church edifice.

Just as in the decades 1810 to 1840 the "Christians" had greatly caused the decline of the original evangelical movement, so now in the decade 1860 to 1870 the revived Orthodox Church took away much of the strength of the "Christians." Elder Murray here, 1867 to 1869, found he could not check it.

The "Christians" or "Baptists" as they were popularly called, their baptism being immersion in the mill-ponds, continued to hold meetings till the death of Elder Pike. From 1880 to 1884 Rev. Mr. Waldron of the Free-Will Baptist Church in Amesbury was a popular preacher in the "Christian" Church. In Dec. 1883 - Jan. 1884, he conducted a "Forty Night Revival," which was the last great evangelistic campaign ever conducted by the Church. There were several conversions and a vast amount of nightly exhortations by local exhorters.

The last entry of members is of 1884, following a baptism in Spring at Poor's mill-pond, and it showed 52 members, 21 male and 31 female.

Evaluation of the Movement

The Christian movement was an important religious movement in town. Some of the most warm-hearted and sincere Christians we have ever had were members of the movement. The denomination was a well-timed protest against so many sects as prevailed in 1800 and in adopting as its creed the New Testament and as its name "Christians," they went far toward a healthy protest against the terrible creeds of the Calvinists. In moral life they made energetic movement in the right direction, they rejected members who brought law-suit against one another and for too free use of intoxicating liquors. They were forerunners of the temperance movement around 1830-1840, and the first real temperance effort in Kensington came from Elder Fernald in 1838, when he preached upon the death by freezing of Robert Forsaith, frozen while drunk from liquor bought locally, and in his revival over 20 were converted to Christ and took the pledge of abstinence from strong drink.

It being a popular movement with largely a self-educated ministry the movement fell in great numbers for the William Miller crusade which spread over New England and New York.

Miller expected the Second Advent in the fall of 1843 and when it did not come he found his error in reckoning and said it would surely come in 1844. One family bought their Ascension robes to be ready to be "Caught up with Jesus in the air" and another man gave away his

oven, as being of no further use to him, while several went to their roofs at the appointed hour.

Dissappointment, ridicule and division followed, and the almost fanatic enthusiasm of the movement ebbed from 1844 on, but the movement started by Elders Jones and Smith and kept on by their followers bulks large in New England religious history, and especially in Kensington history.

The Union Meeting House

The Union Meeting House is a standing monument to the liberalism and tolerance of religious sentiment in Kensington. Some of the earliest families that settled in Kensington were Quakers, the Greens, Johnsons, and others; Parson Fogg had a large following in his anti-Calvinist views, and it is safe to say that there were always in Kensington a large liberal element in matters of religion. In 1838 the Christians built their new edifice, the original parish was nearly dead, Universalists had welcomed Hosea Ballou and other Universalist preachers to their homes to preach, many of the families had become Unitarian, and on September 18, 1838, Squire Ira Blake drew up and headed with $50 a paper pledging the subscribers to sums to be used " To build a new house of Public-Worship to be styled the Union Meeting-House in Kensington . . . said Meeting-House to be free for the use of the several religious sects of the Protestant religion, and each sect to furnish preaching according to their several shares in said Meeting-House."

John T. Blake, Stephen Brown, Samuel Lamprey, followed with subscriptions of $50 each; John Nudd gave $50 in cash and $25 in lumber; Charles Hilliard, Jonathan Tuck, Jr., Newell Blake, Smith Lamprey, Samuel Lamprey, John L. Lamprey, Charles Spaulding, Robert Titcomb, Josiah F. Blake, Joseph Poor, Rufus K. Hilliard, George W. Rowe, Lewis Gove, Jere Tilton, Jemima Dearborn, Samuel Shaw, Dearborn T. Blake, Dearborn Blake, Jeremiah Tilton, Jr., Benjamin Dow, Theodore Lovering, Michael Gove, William Row, Jonathan Tuck, Josiah B. Sanborn, Woodbridge Hobbs, Jeremy Batchelder, Joseph Brown, Ezekiel Worthen, Samuel Dearborn, each gave $25, while J. C. Hilliard, John P. Blake, Nathaniel Tuck, John Page, Dean Rowe, Jonathan Brown, Joseph Rowe, Robert Rowe, Daniel Palmer, Daniel F. Wadleigh, William H. Wadleigh, Nathan Dow, Jr., Benjamin Brown, Insley Page, Newell Page, contributed sums under $25.

The first three subscribers (Ira Blake, Charles Hilliard, J. C. Hilliard) were given power to call a meeting and such meeting was held in Colonel Blake's hall January 23, 1839. At that meeting John T. Blake, Lewis Gove, Josiah B. Sanborn were chosen a building committee to

put up the new meeting-house, and Stephen Kimball, Josiah T. Blake, Theodore Lovering, John T. Blake, and Charles Hilliard were chosen committee to fix location; and Josiah B. Sanborn, Dearborn T. Blake and George Rowe were chosen committee to draw plans for the building. These committees all reported at a meeting held in Blake's Hall on February 15, 1839. Their reports were all accepted and the building was soon under way. January 13, 1840, the building was nearly completed and the 54 pews were sold at auction; 45 were bid off at sums running from $30 to $50 and a sum was realized of about $1,600; this, added to the $1,365 which had been pledged and mostly paid in, enabled the building to be paid for save a debt of $206. This debt was raised and paid in 1845. The bell was given by Asa Gove and Emery Brown.

Dedication of the Union Meeting House, 1840

The rise of the "Christian" movement had greatly weakened the old Orthodox Church, and this fact counts largely for the lack of protest in taking down the Colonial building.

The subscribers to the new Union Meeting House were largely Universalist and Unitarian, and so when the building was ready for its dedication in the spring of 1840, that important service was given over to Unitarian and Universalist groups. The Unitarians had the forenoon service and Rev. Andrew P. Peabody of Portsmouth preached. The Universalists had the afternoon service and Rev. Mr. Bacon of Providence preached.

The Original Pew Owners in Union Meeting House

NUMBER	OWNER
1	Josiah T. Blake
2	Ezekiel Worthen
3	Dearborn Blake
4	Lewis Gove
5	Rufus K. Hilliard
6	Stephen Brown
7	Robert Titcomb
8	John L. Lamprey
9	John Nudd
10	Charles Spalding and Robt. Titcomb
11	George Rowe and Jemima Dearborn
12	William Rowe
13	Michael Gove
14	Green Perkins, Dan'l F. Wadleigh
15	Mrs. Osgood
16	John Page
17	Never sold
18	Abraham Shaw
19	Daniel Palmer Benj. Brown Nath'l Tuck
20	George James
21	Newell Page & Wm. Walton
22	Jerry and Joseph Poor
23	Samuel Shaw

NUMBER	OWNER
24	Col. John T. Blake
25	Hillard and Tuck
26	Dr. Jonathan Brown
27	Stephen Brown
28	Never sold
29	Capt. Benj. Prescott and B. G. Moulton
30	Jonathan Tuck
31	Joseph Chase Hilliard
32	Josiah B. Sanborn
33	Jeremiah Wadleigh
34	Joseph Rowe
35	Woodbridge S. Hobbs
36	Dean Rowe
37	Mark Wadleigh
38	Ira Newell Blake
39	Caleb T. Sanborn
40	Edward Brewer
41	Joseph and Rufus Hilliard
42	Robert Rowe
43	Jeremy Bachelder
44	Francis Hilliard
45	Charles E. Tuck
46	Capt. Ben Moulton
47	Samuel & Smith Lamprey
48	Newell Page
49	Jonathan Tuck, Jr.
50	Squire Ira Blake
51	Joseph Hilliard
52	Charles Hilliard
53	Jerry and Joseph Tilton
54	Dearborn T. Blake

Five pews sold for under $15.00 but the rest ranged from $15.00 to $50.00. A few unsold originally were bought by Universalists after 1865.

Use of the Union Meeting House Through the Years

Dec. 22, 1841, the joint societies of Unitarians in Kensington and Hampton Falls settled Rev. Jacob Caldwell as pastor, and he preached nearly seven years, the morning service being in the Union house.

In 1848, Rev. Increase Sumner Lincoln succeeded Mr. Caldwell; he lived in the old Potter Tavern, and was here three years, using the Union house forenoons.

In 1851, Rev. A. M. Bridge succeeded Mr. Lincoln and lived in Hampton Falls; he also used the Union house forenoons.

The Universalists used the Union house afternoons during the summer and autumn months, with occasional services during winter. In 1864 the Kensington and Kingston societies united and settled Rev. Roland Connor of Brooklyn and a graduate of Canton, N. Y., Theological Seminary, as pastor. During his ministry regular afternoon use was made of the Union house.

The Orthodox people held only occasional meetings for some years after 1840, but after 1851, when they became stronger and the Unitarians became weaker, they divided the forenoon use with the Unitarians.

Around 1856 they began regular services and used the Town Hall on the Sundays the Union edifice was used by Unitarians.

The Unitarians

Unitarianism was essentially an intellectual revolt against those theological conceptions which the advanced knowledge of modern times made it impossible to believe. The church had never been able to secure the assent of all to the doctrine of the trinity; in the year 250 Sabellius argued against it, and in 325 Arius almost secured a majority of the church against it, and the learned Bishop Ulfilas a little later rejected it. Servetus, who was put to death by Calvin, was a Unitarian, and Socinus, born 1525, was the founder of a Unitarian movement. In England the Deists led a large following into the Unitarian belief and in 1774 Lindsey and Priestley definitely started the modern Unitarian movement. In America many of the Arminian ministers had leaned toward a conservative Unitarianism and Priestley's visit to America in 1792 fanned fires into a flame. In 1815 there came the definite break between the Trinitarian and the Unitarian Congregationalist Churches. The liberal elements which had centered about Arminianism now gathered about Unitarianism and as Kensington had had a large Arminian following in the friends of Parson Fogg it naturally was friendly soil for Unitarian ideas.

Pastorates of Rev. Messrs. Caldwell, Lincoln, Bridge

The year following the dedication of the Union Meeting House the Unitarians definitely organized and united with Unitarians in Hampton Falls in calling a pastor, and December 22, 1841, Jacob Caldwell of Lunenberg, Mass., was ordained at the Union house and settled over the Unitarians of Kensington and Hampton Falls. Mr. Caldwell was an able man, a graduate from Harvard College in the class of 1828. He was evidently a fearless thinker, for he said he would gladly welcome Theodore Parker to his pulpit, though in those days Parker's radicalism was obnoxious to nine-tenths of the Unitarians.

In 1848, Rev. Increase Sumner Lincoln was called from Warren, Mass. and installed over the joint societies of Kensington and Hampton Falls. He was a graduate of Yale, an active man, and lived here in the old Potter Tavern.

His wife was a talented woman and gathered the ladies of the Unitarians to the parsonage for joint reading, sewing afternoons, and on April 29, 1849 they organized THE LADIES SEWING LIBRARY, with Mrs. Abby C. H. Lincoln, president, and Miss Mary C. Hilliard, secretary. Charter members were Elizabeth Osgood, Sarah D. Tuck, Hannah Moulton, Sarah B. Hilliard, Tabitha Dow, Betsy J. Dow, Esther Lamprey. Librarian, Elizabeth O. Osgood.

Rev. A. M. Bridge succeeded Mr. Lincoln, being settled pastor over the two societies in 1851. He made his home in Hampton Falls; he was born at Lancaster, Mass., and was pastor nearly 15 years. Upon his death in 1865 the Unitarians in Kensington felt unable any longer to maintain organized effort here and they relinquished to the Universalists the support of liberal preaching in Kensington. The society at Hampton Falls united with the society at Exeter and continued worship and Kensington Unitarians went there to worship or joined with the Universalists.

The Boston and Cambridge leadership of the Unitarians and that of other larger places was of the old established families who were for the most part wealthy and aristocratic. Thus Unitarianism became and remained more of an intellectual revolt than a popular crusade. This was true locally. The Unitarians of Kensington and Hampton Falls stood for an intellectual religion, for education of the young, and especially for a Harvard educated ministry.

It did not become a popular movement but it did establish clear, logical thinking and the spirit of inquiry in matters religious, and it sent several young men away to study in colleges, some of whom became Unitarian ministers. Rev. Joseph Osgood, D. D., born 1815, lifetime pastor at Cohassett, and Rev. George Osgood, his brother, born 1817, and who came back to live in the old parsonage from 1865 to 1899, a friend of Whittier, urging the young people of the town to secure an education, strongly advocating temperance and a friend of everything wholesome; these men were sons of the local Unitarian movement.

Rev. Elvin James Prescott from over the line in Hampton Falls is a son of the joint Kensington and Hampton Falls Unitarian movement.

The Congregationalists

The New England parish Meeting Houses were "Congregational" meeting houses, for the congregation that assembled from the homes of the parish. After freedom of religious sects became law and the Baptists, Methodists, etc. had their equal place in the sun, those who continued attending the old "congregational" churches, called themselves "Congregationalists." After the Unitarian split there were "Trinitarian Congregationalists" and "Unitarian Congregationalists."

THE 1821 MOVEMENT

In 1821, Rev. J. A. Long of Amesbury, who was then supplying here for over two years, reorganized the "Orthodox" members of the old Church-State of Colonial days. He drew up a short and sensible

Creed with a fine Covenant, to which the rallying members subscribed. This Creed became

The First Congregational Creed in Kensington

(1) I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and am willing to receive them as the only perfect Rule for my faith and practice.
(2) I believe in the existence of God and that He exercises a universal government over the world.
(3) I believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God.

Members Who Subscribed to the Creed

The following are the persons who subscribed to this creed and agreed in their covenant to support preaching and public worship "INVIGORATING FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST." (It should be noted that this Creed was short so to appeal to those leaning toward the lack of any creed by the "Christian" sect, and it desired to affirm faith in Jesus as "SON OF GOD" as against the Unitarians, then active.)

Deacons, Jeremiah Fellows and John Prescott Blake

Philemon Blake	Molly Melcher	Lucy Weare
Winthrop Rowe	Mehitable Rowe	Dolly Brown
Martha Tuck	Mercy Rowe	Anna Potter
Betsy Blake	Sarah Brown	Noah Hobbs
Elizabeth Wiggin	Lydia Fogg	Mary Hobbs
Elizabeth Brown	Abigail Brown	Hannah Tuck
Mary Fogg	Ebenezer Potter	Sarah Blake
Eunice Brown	Anna Prescott	Elizabeth Dow
Jeremiah Tuck	Anna Rowe	Mary Sanborn
Sarah Bachelder	Lucy Blake	Sarah Brown

All records of the activities of the "Orthodox" survivors of the Colonial Church after the pastorate of Mr. Long are lost. He left in 1822.

THE 1859 MOVEMENT

As the local group of Trinitarian orthodox families in Kensington began to emerge from their slump, they began to think of establishing a "Congregationalist Church."

The activities of their competitors, the "Christians," had lost influence since the sad fiasco of 1843 and 1844, and Father Ballou had died in 1853, and his annual visits no longer stirred the Universalists to zeal,

and the Hampton Falls Unitarians had joined with Exeter instead of Kensington Unitarians, so the reviving orthodox people had more of a field in which to work.

In late summer of 1859 they gathered, the discussion was, should they start from " scratch " and establish a new " Congregationalist " Church, or should they rally around the one remaining member of the old Parish Church. Miss Sally Hobbs was the only person alive who had been a member of the old Parish Church whose last pastor had been Mr. Kennedy, who had been dismissed July 1816, and which had slowly declined from that date on.

Rallying around Miss Sally Hobbs, on Oct. 9, 1859, the Orthodox reorganized the old church into THE CONGREGATIONALIST CHURCH IN KENSINGTON. There were 18 original members, as follows:

Miss Sally Hobbs (surviving member of old Church)

Stephen Brown and Dolly, his wife	Mrs. Mary L. Lamprey (wife of John P.)
Samuel Austin	Mrs. Eunice Brown (wife of Edgar)
Miss Mary Hilliard	Mrs. Eunice Brown (wife of Benj.)
Miss Polly Dow	Miss Priscilla Hilliard
Miss Esther Lamprey	Mrs. Sarah Abbott Palmer
Mrs. Eunice E. Rowe	Mrs. Susan E. Walton
Mrs. Sally F. Weare	Mrs. Harriet Fitts (wife of William)

Miss Rosa Brown, later Mrs. Rosa Akerman, last of the original members to die, and who gave us the list in 1909 when the Church observed its 50th anniversary.

The church at once began to hold weekly services, using the Town Hall on those Sundays when the Union House was used by the liberals. Rev. George Campbell, of Bradford, supplied the pulpit nearly two years. In 1862 the church asked the Rev. F. D. Eldredge, of Alton, but who had formerly preached at Hampton, to take charge of the church. Mr. Eldredge assented and nearly two years later, June 30, 1864, he became the first installed pastor of the church. Mr. Eldredge went at once about the work of building a meeting-house and on May 28, 1866, the present beautiful and modern church was dedicated. The bell was a gift from John D. Locke, of New York.

A Sketch of Rev. Erasmus Darwin Eldredge

" Father " Eldredge was born at Dunstable, Mass., in 1804, and graduated from the Congregational Seminary at Andover. He graduated at Amherst College 1829 and from the Seminary in 1833. He was or-

dained at Hampton, April 4, 1838 and dismissed May 7, 1848. He was installed at Salisbury, N. H., January 12, 1849; dismissed Nov. 1, 1854. He preached in Georgia 1854 to 1860. He was installed at Alton, N. H., January 24, 1861, and dismissed November 24, 1863. He was installed at Kensington, June 3, 1864, and dismissed January 13, 1875. He died at Athens, Georgia, April 18, 1876. His body was brought North and buried at Hampton. Rev. George Street of Exeter preached the funeral sermon which was published by the Exeter News-Letter. Honorable Amos Tuck paid him this tribute:

"The whole life of Mr. Eldredge was an admonition against sin, selfishness and ambition, and he carried an atmosphere of goodness wherever he went."

Mr. Eldredge married Isabella Hill, of Portsmouth, and they had three children who grew up in Kensington; they were Henry, Frederick E., and Mary. Henry graduated from Amherst College, studied theology at Hartford and was ordained to the Congregational ministry at Becket, Mass., and preached in several Massachusetts churches. Frederick became superintendent of schools in a western state. Mary married a Dr. Lane, who became a surgeon in the Confederate Army, and her home was one of those despoiled by Sherman's victorious army when they marched "From Atlanta to the Sea," and it was in her home that her father lived the fifteen months after he closed his Kensington pastorate, and there he died.

Pastors Since Mr. Eldredge

REV. FREDERICK D. CHANDLER, who had supplied at Hampton for a time, was called to the pastorate in 1876 and served nearly four years.

REV. PHILIP TITCOMB became pastor in 1880, late in the year, and died in January 1891, shortly after celebrating his ten years here.

REV. JOHN P. DEMERRITT of Exeter supplied the pulpit much in 1891 and 1892.

REV. C. C. LYON was secured as stated supply April, 1893, but after serving several months resigned because of poor health. Mr. Lyon was a well educated man, brought the new and broader view from Andover, but was withal loyally evangelical.

REV. DAVID FRASER of South Coventry, Conn., a student at Revere Lay College, became pastor June 17, 1894, and continued while he completed his studies in Revere and at Boston University Theological School. He had a very successful pastorate, organized a Christian Endeavor Society, and many young people joined the church, one of whom

(the writer) entered the Congregational ministry. Mr. Fraser was ordained Dec. 4, 1895 and served as pastor till Oct. 16, 1898.

REV. JOHN A. POGUE was pastor during 1899.

REV. AUBREY C. GILMOUR came from Vermont in April, 1900, was ordained June 12, and ended his service March 31, 1901.

REV. E. B. PIKE and Mr. Ray Pike of Brentwood supplied to the fall of 1901.

REV. EZRA J. RIGGS of Fitchburg became pastor Oct. 1, 1901 and served till Oct. 1, 1904. Mr. Riggs was a Civil War veteran and liked by all.

REV. PAUL BOURNE became pastor Jan. 1, 1905 but died suddenly of pneumonia on April 16. His wife, Mrs. Eliza Bourne, supplied the pulpit from May 7 to Sept. 1.

REV. DAVID MORGAN, a retired minister living at Exeter, a graduate of Yale Divinity School in 1885, supplied the pulpit Jan. to April, 1906, but gave up because of poor health and died one month later.

REV. ALBERT V. FISHER came here in June, 1906, from Derry, N. H., as a Christian Worker. He was ordained Sept. 27, and remained pastor to April, 1910. During his pastorate the Church celebrated its 50th anniversary on Oct. 9, 1909, and the interior of the Church was re-painted.

REV. B. J. H. SHAW came May 1, 1910 and served some over two years.

REV. HERMAN LOHMANN came Oct. 1, 1912 and served to Feb. 13, 1916.

REV. DORRALL LEE was pastor from April 1916 to Oct. 1, 1924, when he resigned because of advanced years.

REV. CHARLES A. PARKER of Stratham was stated supply and acting pastor during 1925 and until June 1934.

MR. KENNETH DEWITT PAUL, student at Andover-Newton, supplied Aug. 1, 1934 to Aug. 1, 1935.

REV. ALICE BIGLEY SNOW was pastor from Nov. 1935 to Nov. 1937.

MR. HAROLD MACNAIL, MR. ARTHAYER SANBORN, MR. GORDON MACPHERSON, students, supplied for 10 months, 18 months and one year respectively.

REV. OLIVER C. NORTHCOTTE, student at Andover-Newton, came here Oct. 1941, was engaged in Nov. as stated supply, and upon his graduation in 1942 moved into the parsonage with his wife and family and was ordained on Oct. 9, 1942, the 83rd anniversary of the establishment of the Church.

Societies Affiliated with the Congregational Church

THE PARISH

Feb. 7, 1860, the following call for a meeting to organize a Parish to support the Congregational Parish established Oct. 9, 1859, was issued:

"The undersigned individuals feel anxious to have vested in the people the ecclesiastical principles and practices of our fore-fathers, and we deem it to be a duty and a privilege to use our influence to acclaim such a desirable end. We therefor agree to meet, Providence permitting, at the Town Hall the last Saturday of this month (Feb. 25) at 3 PM and if thought best, to organize a Congregational Society and to co-operate with the Cong'l Church recently organized to carry out the above principles.

Theophilus H. Kimball	Jeremy Bachelder	Woodbridge N. Hobbs
Jonathan Tuck	Stephen Brown	John P. Lamprey
Charles Titcomb	Andrew Gove	Stephen H. Brown
Samuel B. Austin	Lewis E. Gove	Clinton Gove
Samuel Austin	John Chase	Abel Brown
Jonathan Badger	Jonathan Palmer	Benj. A. Fitts
Oliver J. Palmer	James S. Austin	William D. Fitts"

The meeting was duly held on Feb. 25 and the Parish organized. Rev. Mr. Campbell of Bradford, Mass., called the meeting to order, Jeremy Bachelder was chosen moderator, John P. Lamprey, clerk, and Stephen Brown, Jonathan Tuck and Samuel Austin a committee to perfect plans, draw a constitution, etc.

March 31 another meeting was held, the Constitution adopted, and the first set of officers chosen were:

John Pat Lamprey, clerk; Jonathan Palmer, treasurer; Stephen Brown, collector; T. H. Kimball, auditor; Jonathan Palmer, W. N. Hobbs and Stephen Brown, assessors.

Though the Church was incorporated in 1915 the Parish has never surrendered its rights.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

One of the pleasing things about the religious life of the town is the record of the "Joint Sunday School" of Unitarian and Trinitarian people in the Union Church. It seems to have been held most of the time between 1840 and 1859, but it was given great impetus around 1857-1858, when a young theological graduate came here and organized a young man's Bible Class. He later went as a foreign missionary and suffered a martyr's death. Nine of his class served in the Civil War.

Mr. Campbell organized a Congregational Sunday School in 1859 after the organization of the Church. The late Mrs. Ellen P. Walton

in 1896 wrote a full history of the school through the years, which was brought down to 1909 by Mrs. Emma Chase. It was at many times large and enthusiastic and must have had great influence over the young. The following are the superintendents who have served: Jonathan Palmer, Samuel Austin, Edmund Rowell, Rev. F. D. Eldridge, Abraham G. M. Titcomb, Daniel E. Palmer, Sidney C. Chase, Weare N. Shaw, Josiah D. Prescott, Deacon James Hobbs, Rosa (Brown) Akerman, Miss Caro Titcomb, Mrs. Adelaide Hilliard, Mrs. Ezra J. Riggs, Deacon John M. True, Mrs. Mary Emma Chase, Mrs. Dorral Lee, Mrs. Lizzie Steeves, Mrs. Dorothy Card. Three members of the school have entered the ministry: Rev. Messrs. Henry Eldridge, Ezra B. Chase, Roland D. Sawyer.

THE LADIES AID

Early in January, 1899, Mrs. Ellen P. Walton and Mrs. Ida M. (Sawyer) Mace, after a Kings Daughters meeting held at the home of Mrs. Walton, asked a few ladies to remain and they discussed the possibility of a Ladies Aid Society to help the Congregational Church. The result was a meeting in the vestry on Jan. 17, 1899 and the Society was organized. Mrs. Mary Emma Chase was first president and Mrs. David Brown, vice-president. Other presidents have been, Mrs. Herbert Prescott, Mrs. Ida L. Riggs (wife of the minister), Mrs. Ida M. Mace. Mrs. Mace served many years.

THE FEMALE CENT ORGANIZATION

This was organized April 12, 1860, with 20 members, all young people. It was their work to raise money a cent at a time, to help church expenses and contribute to missionary work. In 1883 they raised $20.00 and between 1860 and 1895 they had raised $430.80.

The first treasurer was Miss Nancy Batchelder.

Y. P. S. C. E.

When Mr. Fraser became pastor in 1894 he organized a local Christian Endeavor Society with a large number of young people. The following year the 1895 convention was held in Boston which gave it further impetus. It was a strong organization for several years.

The Congregational Church Building

Few of the smaller New England towns have so beautiful and well equipped edifice as the Kensington church. This building was the ardent desire of good old "Father" Eldridge, who wanted to leave a beautiful church building as a monument in his last parish.

Just five years after the Parish was formed the group of men of the Parish who were strong with Mr. Eldridge, met on the night of Feb. 6, 1865, drew up a warrant to call a meeting of the Parish to act upon

building a church-building, and also drew up a subscription paper, on which the following names appear, who gave the sums designated:

Jonathan Tuck, Stephen Brown, Rev. Amos Brown, $100.00 each. All the following gave $50.00 each: Abel Brown, Samuel Austin, John G. Dow, Jonathan F. Badger, Joseph F. Piper, James Hobbs, Rev. E. D. Eldridge, Mary Elizabeth Blake (Mrs. John T.), Charles Titcomb, A. G. M. Titcomb, Mrs. Esther Lamprey (Mrs. Gilman), Theophilus Hilliard Kimball, Woodbridge S. Hobbs, "A Friend." Stephen M. Kimball gave $25.00 and others smaller sums, a total of over $1,200.

Sums pledged with the sale of pews netted about $3,550.00, which with labor contributed, was enough to build the Church.

Abraham G. M. Titcomb was the first clerk of the Congregational Society and he kept a careful and complete record of the beginnings of the Congregational Church building.

Voted to build on Feb. 25, 1865.

Started to hew timbers on land of Gilman Lamprey, April 3, 1865.

Started hauling said timber on April 29, to land bought of Rufus K. and Rufus E. and Mary A. Hilliard, for $150.00. A quarter acre near the Town Hall.

Started foundation June 12. Started the raising July 1, but heavy showers came up and it was deferred till July 3 and 4, when it was raised. July 11 it was all boarded in. Work from Aug. 14 was carried on till March 3, when work was far enough advanced to have a public sale of pews. 23 pews were that day sold for $1,320.00
22 other pews were later sold by the committee for 1,042.00

Total $2,362.00

The Number of the Pew with Purchaser
Public Sale Mar. 3, 1866

1 — Rev. E. D. Eldridge
2 — John Green (Hampton)
3 — George W. Green
4 — Henry C. Tuck
5 — Mrs. John Brown
6 — Jonathan Tuck
7 — Jonathan F. Badger
8 — David Brown and Emery
9 — Clara D. Titcomb
10 — Abel Brown
11 — Titcomb, Kimball & Tuck
12 — To be rented
13 — Thomas C. Shaw and Polly Tilton
14 — Stephen Brown and Joseph
15 — Edmund Rowell
16 — James B. Bartlett
17 — S. M. Kimball
18 — Stephen Brown
19 — Mary Esther Blake
20 — Theophilus H. Kimball
21 — Joseph F. Piper
22 — Joseph W. Brown
23 — To be rented

Private Sale by Committee

24 — Mrs. Esther Lamprey
25 — Rev. E. D. Eldridge
26 — Titcomb, Kimball & Tuck
27 — Daniel R. Prescott
28 — Woodbridge S. Hobbs
29 — T. K. Mace and Rosa Brown
30 — A. G. M. Titcomb
31 — Mrs. Esther Lamprey
32 — James Hobbs
33 — To be rented
34 — To be rented
35 — T. P. Drew
36 — Parker M. Badger
37 — William Walton
38 — Daniel Merrill
39 — Samuel Austin
40 — John L. Lamprey
41 — Lewis E. Gove
42 — Jonathan Palmer
43 — John Chase
44 — John G. Dow
45 — Titcomb, Kimball & Tuck

Pew No. 1 sold for $13.00 but all the rest sold for sums running to $106.00, most of them selling between $55.00 and $75.00.

The Universalists

England, the mother civilization of New England, and English religious thinking, was shaken from its old lines by Deism, a movement that extended to the continent and created the French Skeptics and the German Rationalists.

Joseph Priestley's powerful mind yielded to the powerful assaults of the Deists to the extent of becoming Socinian, or Unitarian, in his view of Christ, in 1767. His visits here 25 years later gave impetus to his views, which Channing welded into an organized religious sect. This movement was intellectual and aristocratic.

Universalism was an entirely different movement. Its English forerunners were not men of learning like Priestley but were humble preachers. From earliest times, back to Irenaeus in 188 A. D., there had been those who could not accept the doctrine of everlasting punishment of sinners. Rev. James Relly and Rev. John Murray in England declared against it and preached Universal Salvation. Murray came to America to pioneer his faith in the Larger Hope, and Hosea Ballou welded his ideas into a new religious sect.

Priestley and Channing appealed to the educated and wealthy; Murray and Ballou appealed to the common people. The early Unitarians were men learned in the schools; the early Universalists were self-taught, level-headed, thinking men.

Channing appealed to the social strata of the educated and economically secure; Ballou appealed to the hard-working farmer and mechanic. Channing was the graduate from Harvard and the polished

preacher; Ballou was self-taught by the fire-place and pitch-pine knot, as had been Lincoln, and he became the rough and ready debater and itinerant preacher. Channing was of Boston; Ballou was the "Hill-Town Preacher" of New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Yet from this self-educated man came one of the greatest books ever written by a religious leader in America, viz. "Ballou's Treatise on the Atonement." And the movement Ballou organized was democratic; Sylvanus Cobb, Thomas Whittemore, were men distinctly of the people.

Deacon John Prescott Blake had been one of the staunch supporters of Rev. Jeremiah Fogg in 1789, when his Arminian views had been assailed, and his grandsons were Squire Ira and Col. John T. Blake, active men in town and who had taken the foremost part of building a "Union" meeting-house. Both men were ardent supporters of the views of Ballou, and they secured the preaching of Universalist doctrines, as often as they could, from the great trio, Ballou, Cobb, Whittemore. Universalism being a movement of the common people, it was natural that it should supplant Unitarianism in Kensington, and as the Unitarians became weaker the Universalists were becoming stronger. When in 1865 the Unitarians found themselves unable any longer to unite with Hampton Falls and continue liberal preaching, the Universalists took up the work of "safeguarding liberal preaching in Kensington."

On the night of November 18, 1865, ten men met at the home of Joseph Poor and organized a Universalist Society. The ten men who signed the charter that night were: Benjamin Moulton, Joseph Poor, S. Parsons Tuck, Cyrus D. Wadleigh, Amos T. Rowe, John Adams Blake, Francis Hilliard, Charles E. Tuck, Charles Augustus Hilliard, Harrison Rowe.

The Society united with the Society in Kingston and settled Rev. Roland Connor over both churches. Mr. Connor served two pastorates here and was very successful. He came from Brooklyn, was ordained in Kensington; from here went to Boston to become an assistant to Dr. Miner, and later became a Unitarian and went west.

Rev. Willis Bradley followed Mr. Connor as joint pastor of Kingston and Kensington. After he finished the meetings were supplied by Rev. Fletcher of Exeter, Rev. Mrs. Roberts and others. Rev. Willard Spalding for over 30 years supplied the pulpit a great deal.

Mr. Spalding was perhaps the most popular preacher the Universalists ever had. He was here much before Mr. Connor was called, and Willard Spalding Poor, born 1859, was named for him. He was here much during the decade 1880-1890, and after he died Rev. Mr. Little and Rev. Mr. Gibbs of Amesbury supplied afternoons during the open

months. Around 1900 Rev. F. W. Whippen supplied for near 15 years, or till Mr. Payson was called.

A Church was never organized, and so far as I know, only one member of the society ever united with the church. July 19, before Mr. Whippen of Kingston ceased to preach, one member of the Society joined the church at Kingston.

The Pioneer Universalists

(Rev. Hosea Ballou's Visit to Kensington)

Historically the most important religious activity of Kensington was the support it gave to the pioneer Universalist preachers in their crusade for a sane and kindly religion. "Father" Ballou had a host of admirers here, and his helpers also found here a welcome. Two letters before me show the affection with which Father Ballou was held. One is from the late Hannah Moulton, and was written when she was near 80 years of age. She says: "I have the picture of Rev. Hosea Ballou before me, his Bible before him, and his dear hand on it." The other letter is from Mrs. S. E. Cram, of Hampton Falls. She says: "I recall well hearing Father Ballou preach in the old Church at Kensington; I recall the crowded house, and distinctly I can see the venerable figure with long silvery hair, and wearing knee breeches, even then an unusual garb. I was not more than ten years of age at the time."

Mrs. Phoebe M. Sawyer, youngest child of Col. Blake and born in 1847, used to recall her memory of sitting on Father Ballou's knee and he teaching her to call him "Grandpa." Though she was but four years of age, the grave face and gray hair, and the respect of her parents for Father Ballou, impressed Mrs. Sawyer with the earliest memory she could recall in her adult life.

Whittemore's "Life of Hosea Ballou" preserves a letter from some Kensington admirer, written upon the occasion of his last visit here, June 15, 1851. The letter runs: "Our venerable father was perhaps never doing more good by preaching the gospel than now. He has almost the activity, both in body and mind, which he had at 50 years of age. On the Sabbath, 15th of June, he preached here at Kensington, and such a day the town has seldom seen. The heavens were clear; the atmosphere was that of balmy spring; and the people poured in from surrounding hills till there was hardly room to receive them. The meeting-house was totally filled. Hundreds were instructed in Gospel truth. Who will fill Father Ballou's place when he is gone?"

Father Ballou at this time was in his 81st year, and was making a sort of valedictory round of the churches. He was able to preach two sermons a day, of an hour each, without tiring. His itinerary that last

summer ran thus: June 1, preached at Brentwood; June 8, at Fall River; June 15, at Kensington; June 22, at Worcester; June 29, at Sandown; later in the summer he preached at Newton, Kingston, Portsmouth, Weare, Concord; and in October made his last visit to Richmond. All services were crowded, and a letter from Sandown says that at the service there people came from Chester, Raymond, Danville, Brentwood, Hempstead, Kingston, Poplin, Derry and other towns.

FATHER BALLOU'S HELPERS

(Cobb and Whittemore)

Mrs. Cram's letter gives an interesting account of her recollection of the other great Universalist preachers, and I quote from it. "I recollect well many of the old lights of Universalists. I recall Rev. Sylvanus Cobb and his wife, he preaching and she offering for sale a little biographical sketch of their little boy who had died. Mr. Cobb used to sell his books as he journeyed from place to place; my father owned one, viz. 'A Compendium of Divinity,' by Rev. Sylvanus Cobb. . . . Rev. Thomas Whittemore was a very interesting figure in those days, and though conspicuously ill-favored, was a staunch and well-liked champion of the peculiar tenets of his sect. I can see him now standing in the pulpit, his big Bible in both hands, while with lightning-like rapidity he turned the leaves from Genesis to Revelation, quoting text after text to show that the Bible did not teach the abhorrent doctrine of eternal punishment. I recall an amusing incident which happened at my father's home during one Conference season, when several of the 'big guns' of Universalism were dining there. Rev. Arthur Moore was a very fine looking man, and, the conversation turning on heredity in personal looks, Mr. Whittemore said, 'Well, Brother Moore, if your children have good looks they certainly cannot have taken them from you,' to which Mr. Moore replied, 'Well, Brother Whittemore, if your children have good looks they certainly must have taken them from you, for you have none left.' They were a jovial set, those old divines, and the amount of good viands they could dispose of at a sitting was remarkable. The generation that followed them were of a different type: Dr. Patterson, of Portsmouth, and St. John Chambre, and the one we loved above all others, Rev. Willard Spalding, whose voice was always raised in the cause of freedom from oppression."

Recent Activities at the Universalist Society

In 1911 the legacy bequeathed the Society by Mary Augusta Hilliard became available and amounted to $1,008.57.

At the March meeting (March 13) 1913, it was known that Benjamin George Moulton who died late in 1912, and Miss Hannah Moulton who died Jan. 19, 1913, had each given $5,000 to the Society, the income of which should go for preaching Universalist teachings in Kensington. Accordingly State Supt. Rev. Geo. E. Leighton was present, and a reorganization was voted, whereby pew-owners retained their pews but transferred to the Universalist Society the control and ownership of the Meeting House. It was also voted to improve the Meeting House, put in a heating equipment, etc., using the funds in part from the will of Miss Hilliard. Also several new members joined the Society. March 1915 the town deeded the lot to the Society.

March 1915 the Society voted to unite with the Newfields Society in calling a joint pastor, and Rev. F. L. Payson became the joint pastor.

Following the pastorate of Mr. Payson there have been held only summer services; Mr. Whippen, then Rev. Asa M. Bradley of Kingston, then Rev. Arthur W. Webster for several summers.

In 1935 the Society observed "Old Home Day of Universalists" at an August meeting which was a great success, over 100 being present. And since then it has been regularly observed, the day in 1942 bringing together 132 people, the Congregational Church omitting its service and its pastor and congregation worshipping with the Universalists.

The present officials are: Clerk, Miss Irene Bragg; Treasurer, Esther (Blake) Warner.

Universalist Societies and Their Activities

From the pastorate of Rev. Roland Connor down to the "Nineties" a Sunday School was carried on in connection with the preaching services and many interesting concerts furnished social as well as religious life to old and young.

THE MOULTON CIRCLE

Oct. 7, 1915, under guidance of Rev. Mr. Payson, "The Moulton Circle" to aid the church was formed with the following membership:

Mrs. Lizzie E. Plumb
Mrs. Lizzie Blake
Mrs. Nellie Herrick
Mrs. Mary (Hilliard) Prescott
Mrs. Emma Gove
Miss Mary A. Tilton
Mrs. Isabel Moulton
Miss Marcia D. Tilton
Mrs. Annie Brown
Mrs. Alice Bragg
Mrs. Mary F. Dodge
Miss Vera Eastman
Mrs. Agnes Brown

The first officers of the Circle were: Mrs. Mary (Hilliard) Prescott, president; Miss Marcia D. Tilton, vice-president; Miss Lizzie (Tuck) Plumb, secretary.

The Circle increased its membership and carried on till 1927, when by reason of death and removal its membership declined and it ceased its activities.

Quakers, Adventists, the First Catholic, Spiritualists

In the early days of Kensington there were fourteen Quaker families. In 1761 it was voted that one of the three selectmen should be a Quaker. Jonathan Purington was the Quaker selected. After the act exempting Quakers from paying taxes to support preachers some united with the Quakers to escape such tax or when dissatisfied with the parish church. The Green family were always Quakers till late years when they became Universalists. They had a family cemetery; Stephen Green who died in 1890 was the first Green not buried in the family cemetery. John Dow who died at the age of 92 was the last of his family of Quakers.

A few families who left the Christian Church following 1844 became members of second Advent Churches in nearby towns; one branch of the Dow family, the Robie family and Arthur Batchelder family are earnest Christians of today who worship in the Advent Churches.

Timothy Mahoney, who worked for Col. Blake and lived in the house so long occupied by the late Stephen Sawyer, was the first Catholic to become a citizen of the town. There was much local interest when his little boy " Timie " died in 1855 at the age of three and the priest came and attended the funeral with the candles in Catholic ceremony. The little boy was buried in our lower graveyard and the slate stone with the cross marks the only Catholic grave in either yard.

In the late years of his life Hon. Newell Blake, who for some time kept the Blake store and was later a merchant in Oldtown, Maine, and also State Senator and Mayor of Bangor, became a Spiritualist; his niece, Maria Blake Sawyer, also became a Spiritualist as did Abram Hilliard, County Commissioner from Kensington.

The Influence of Kensington Religious Life

There is food for deep thought and tender feeling in the religious life of Kensington. As one looks it over he can see that next to their getting their living the people of Kensington gave more attention to religion than to anything else, and one asks himself in wonderment, why has the interest in things religious so largely died out? It is that religion was entirely a re-action against hard living conditions and that our easier living today leaves us without religion?

Interest in religion was keen in Kensington and any preacher with an earnest message could get a substantial congregation. Rev. Lorenzo Dow held his open air meetings in a pasture back of the Christian Meeting House. Baptisms were held in the Spring in the mill-pond near Poor's saw mill and impressive indeed was the scene as the gathering on the bank sang of the River Jordan, tears of emotion streaming down their cheeks as Elder Pike led the convert down into the water.

Favorite songs in the old meetings were: "In a Christian's Home in Glory," "Shall We Meet Beyond the River," "In the Sweet By and By," "Over Jordan." All of which show that in these religious meetings the people found joy in forgetting the hardness of their lives and thinking of a better life to come.

How deeply a lad from 6 to 16 was impressed by the religious activities in Kensington, with some account of the services at the three churches, I have told in a little article in THE NEWS-LETTER, which I reproduce here. I practically sketched the story of any Sunday between 1880 and 1890, but which might apply to a longer period, say, 1875-1895.

A SABBATH IN THE "EIGHTIES"

(Rev. Roland D. Sawyer in NEWS-LETTER, 1908)

Religion in the "eighties," when I looked on life through a boy's wide, wondering eyes, was still a great force in Kensington. At a few minutes before 11 a.m. Parson Titcomb and his three daughters would come forth from the Congregational parsonage, carefully close the gate of the picket fence, and hasten to their services. The majority of his faithful flock rode to church in a peculiar one-horse carriage, with a jump-seat, capable of being made a sort of "carry-all." Stephen Brown, David Brown, Ellery Palmer, Deacon Hobbs, Mary Lamprey, Warren Lamprey, Sidney Chase, Stephen Kimball, Judson Blodgett, Samuel Batchelder, of Hampton Falls, all these drove every Sunday with their families in such a vehicle. It was still the day of two services, and after the noon-hour luncheon all assembled within the church for the second sermon. Often the jump-seat carriage (which we called the gospel-carts) would not hold all the family and we would see Ellery Palmer, Sidney Chase, Deacon Hobbs walking that the women could ride.

In the afternoon there came also the Universalist service during summer months. At a quarter to two Francis Hilliard, his wife and daughters, would come from their house, quite often accompanied by Willard Spaulding, the preacher most often heard, and would start for the Union house. Joseph Hilliard and his family, brave, genial Susan Chase and her daughters, the Greens, the Tucks, Thomas Blake and

wife, Joe Tilton's girls from Gove's Hill, the Moulton family from the Ridge, Joseph Poor with some of his family or relatives, these would all faithfully join with the Wadleighs from Drinkwater and those who might come from out of town to the service of a liberal religion.

These two churches were sort of family churches, the communicants came from Orthodox and Universalist families; but the more democratic institution of religion was the Christian, or as it was more often called, the Baptist Church. Here Elder Daniel Pike was holding forth. What a pulpit genius he was; now striding back and forth in his pulpit thundering his anathemas at "the men he saw in Newburyport buying rum"; then pausing to tell a genial story; then getting pathetic and moving his audience to tears; all this attracted the religious stragglers, and we would see Jim Rollins, Charles Lovering, Ben Fitts, Ira Fellows, George Blake, and those unattached and seldom seen at church would fill the pews. Some would stay out on the steps or lie on the grass and hear the Elder from there, for his powerful voice would carry all over the "city."

The most impressive religious service of the "eighties" was the Spring baptisms in the Poor's mill-pond. Sometimes by the side of the road, at other times farther in, as soon as the ice cleared and it was prudent, the converts were baptized. I can still see the people on the banks singing their hymns as tears of emotion coursed down their cheeks, and the solemn pastor leading the trembling convert into the water, his face lifted toward heaven in prayer. I was impressed as Jesus must have been as he stood by the Jordan when John came baptizing.

It would take columns to tell the mannerisms of the lay exhorters who held forth in the popular meetings at the Christian Church. As I look back at the scenes I think of Emerson's hymn:

> "From humble tenements around
> Came up the pensive train;
> And in the church, a blessing found
> That filled their homes again."

CHAPTER 11

THE MILITARY HISTORY OF THE TOWN
OUR SOLDIERS IN THE COLONIAL WARS, THE REVOLUTION, WAR OF 1812, MEXICAN WAR, CIVIL WAR, WORLD WARS 1 AND 2 — MEMORIES OF OLD TRAINING DAYS OF THE LOCAL MILITIA

Town records reveal such action as the town officially took in regard to the various wars, and the selectmen's chest contains some 2000 receipts between 1770 and 1830, many of them to soldiers for their services. Comparing these receipts with the official rolls as published, shows the impossibility of getting a list of men who served that is entirely accurate; especially is this so in the Colonial and Revolutionary wars.

In the Indian wars, to go with a scouting party and enlist for a month was "All in the day's work." Men volunteered, served sometimes a few days, sometimes a few weeks, sometimes a campaign, they came back and took up the axe or scythe instead of the gun, and nothing was said; only those who served some time or had some prominent part went into the records.

And during the Revolution it was often the same, we find a man paid for being away from his farm in the army for seven weeks. Another for being away for three months. Neither are on any Rolls of the Revolution. Again a man might be temporarily in another town and join the group there, and he received no record in either place.

Thus when we list below those who served in the Colonial Wars, we record only a part of those who served; in the matter of the Revolutionary War we have searched with great care and think there are but few omissions in the list.

The Indian Wars

White settlers came to Hampton at a most fortunate time, so far as the Indian opposition was concerned. Captain Smith, in his account of his voyage of discovery of Piscataqua River gives us a good description of the manner and customs of the local Indians. In the quaint book that relates the narrative of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, we read a description by Sir Richard Hawkins of the war between the Nova Scotia and local Indians in 1615, and the dreadful scourge of smallpox which followed in 1616.

In Massachusetts and Connecticut, the ruthless slaughter of the Pequots in 1637 sent a feeling of dread of the white man over all New England Indians that lasted till the time of King Philip in 1675. Hubbard's narrative gives an account of a gathering of Indian leaders in

1660, where the wise old Pasaconaway, in a farewell address to his people, such as George Washington later gave to America, warned them not to quarrel with their English neighbors. The effect of that address was strong upon his son, Wonolanset, who, according to the same book, became a pacifist when King Philip took the war path, he gathered about him all he could and withdrew, so not to participate in the war.

The clashes between the white race and the red men were inevitable. The Indians were ignorant and resentful, the white people were narrow-minded and domineering, with a strong racial feeling.

There were six wars of varying length between Indians and settlers: King Philip's War, 1675-1677; King William's War, 1689-1697; Queen Anne's War, 1703-1713; Lovewell's War, 1722-1725; Gov. Shirley's War, 1745-1748; French and Indian War, 1754-1763.

KING PHILIP'S WAR (1675-1677). This was too early for Kensington men to have any part, but Capt. Philemon Blake, whose son settled here, received his title for service in that war.

KING WILLIAM'S WAR (1689-1697). This was provoked by the arrogant English Tory Andros when he plundered French forts in Maine.

Farmer's edition of Belknap's History of New Hampshire, pages 144 and 145, gives a list of the places attacked and the number killed and captured between 1689 and 1697. Exeter was three times attacked, with eleven people killed. Dover was five times attacked and 35 killed. Rye suffered a disastrous attack, and over twenty were killed. York, Kittery, Lamprey River, Haverhill, all suffered attacks, but Portsmouth and Hampton escaped any general assault. It was in this war that the Indians captured Hannah Dustin whose escape is a well known event in early history. Here we find our first record of service by a Kensington man. Jonathan Prescott, who later settled the farm now owned by Dr. Clifford G. Rounsefell, was in the service at the age of 20.

QUEEN ANNE'S WAR (1703-1713). War between France and England broke out again in 1703 and its conflict was quickly brought to America. French vessels attacked English fishermen off the coast of Nova Scotia, and French and Indian war parties attacked all English settlement between Saco and Wells Beach, destroying homes and killing and capturing over 130 people. August 17th Captain Tom at the head of thirty Indians attacked Hampton Village, plundered two homes and killed Jonathan Green, Nicholas Bond, Thomas Lancaster, a son of William Hinckley and Widow Mussey, a Quaker and friend of the Indians, as was also Lancaster. Great alarm and uneasiness followed this assault, and Hampton and Portsmouth raised an army of 400 men to clean the Indians from the locality, and a bounty of forty pounds for every Indian scalp was ordered paid.

It was in this war that in 1706 Benjamin Fifield was killed at Hampton Falls, Henry Elkins was killed in Kingston and a man was killed in Exeter. In May, 1709, four men were seized at Pickpocket Mills in Exeter, one of whom, William Moody, was tortured, roasted alive and his flesh eaten by the Indians. In 1710 Col. Hilton was ambushed and killed with two of his soldiers. The Indians raided Exeter, killing two men and seizing four children. They also raided Kingston and assaults upon exposed places continued. In 1711 Great Britain sent a large expedition of ships and men to assault Quebec, which expedition failed, and the next year, 1712, Indian parties again attacked Dover, Exeter, and Kingston, where Stephen Gilman was killed and Ebenezer Stevens was wounded, and at the same time in an attack at Dover, Esther Jones became the New Hampshire heroine. In the Dover attack some children were taken and it looked as though a general assault would succeed, the men being away on an armed expedition, when Esther Jones in a masculine voice shouted her commands as though she had a large garrison, and the Indians fled. In Europe the peace of Utrecht ended hostilities between the English and French, and in the spring of 1713 peace was declared between the English and the Indians.

In this war John and and Nathaniel Prescott, who lived here then or later, served with the scouting party of 1707. And in 1710 Jonathan Prescott, already settled here, was with Capt. John Gilman's scouting party.

Moses Blake and Isaac Fellows, both of whom later lived here, were in the 400 Hampton and Portsmouth men that drove the Indians back toward Canada. Richard Sanborn was in Hilliard's scouting party of 1712, and he came in 1714 to Red Oak Ridge.

LOVEWELL'S WAR (1722-1725). In 1722 Indians moved by a French man by the name of Ralle attacked Maine settlements. In 1723 they attacked Dover. In 1724 they attacked Kingston and other New Hampshire communities. At least one Kensington man was with Capt. Lovewell; this was James Sanborn, living on Red Oak Ridge, and brother of Richard mentioned above. He was in Capt. Sherburne's company.

GOV. SHIRLEY'S WAR (1745-1748). In 1745 Governor Shirley sent his expedition to capture all French land in America, in which he was aided by Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire. This is the celebrated Louisburg expedition. It provoked war in which the French again incited their Indian allies and in late 1747 and early 1748 serious raids were made on Pennecook, Suncook, Nottingham, Rochester, and other settlements.

Louisburg was the French Gibraltar and to subdue it Gov. Shirley asked Massachusetts to raise 3250 men, Connecticut to raise 500, New Hampshire and Rhode Island 300 each. The New Hampshire men sailed from Portsmouth in March 1745 and among them were several Kensington men, especially the following:

* Capt. Jonathan Prescott
Engineer Ezekiel Worthen
Corp. John Blake
* Samuel Blake
Samuel Blake, Jr.
John Chapman
Joseph Weare
Nathan Dow
Jonathan Cass
Mr. Morgan's son
Joshua Gilman
Robert Rowe
Joseph Sanborn
* Abner Sanborn
Samuel French
Daniel Gilman
Josiah Gilman
* Theophilus Sanborn
John Gilman
Daniel Page
Benj. Kimball
Thos. Gordan
Ebenezer Gove
Moses Flanders

* Four of the above made the great sacrifice. Corporal Blake and Theophilus Sanborn were killed, the latter near Saco at the age of 19. Capt. Prescott died of typhus fever at Louisburg in 1745, and Abner Sanborn died the same way in 1746. Flanders was a Salisbury man who lived with Jonathan Cass and whose sister or daughter married Joseph Cass.

FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR (1754-1763). This was the long and final struggle between the French and English over American Colonies. It broke out on the Alleghany Trail when Virginia sent George Washington to resist the French in July, 1754. In 1755 England sent Gen. Braddock with 6000 troops to help the English Colonies. In 1758 an English army under Gen. Wolfe was sent to capture Canada. Actual fighting did not get under way until 1759; September 13th came the great battle when both commanding generals, Wolfe and Montcalm, were slain but the English were the victors. In the same year 1000 men were sent under Col. Lovewell to capture Crown Point at Ticonderoga. Kensington had many men in both the Canadian and Crown Point campaigns; among them the following:

Lt. Col. Samuel Prescott
Capt. Ezekiel Worthen
Dr. Joseph Sanborn
Capt. John Gilman
Dr. Benj. Rowe
Sgt. Currier
Sgt. Tilton
Sgt. Benj. Tilton
Sgt. Currier
Sgt. Joseph Clifford
Obadiah Gove
Jonathan Weare
Ebenezer Lovering
Nathan Dow

Moses Blake, Jr.
Caleb Brown
Hezekiah Swain
Jere Griffin
David Green
Benjamin MaGoon
Samuel Eliot
Abraham Sanborn, Jr.
John Smith Sanborn
Isaac Fellows, Jr.
Melcher Ward
David James
Israel James
Joseph Weare

Lt. Col. Prescott went to Lake George in Col. Peter Gilman's regiment, Capt. Worthen had a company in Col. Meserve's regiment. Dr. Joseph Sanborn was at the front in the battle led by Wolfe and Montcalm, in which both leaders were killed.

Kensington in the Revolutionary War
(THE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES)

It is impossible to secure a correct casualty list, but we know that six men gave their lives as appears below. And a singular circumstance is, that the entire six all lived on upper Stumpfield Road, within less than a half mile of one another, and the homes of all are gone.

Ozias Locke lived in the old place opposite the present home of Miss Gertrude Foss, John Blake went from the old Blake place burned in 1921, the Smith brothers, Edward and Samuel, and the Perkins brothers, Moses and Jonathan, lived in adjoining homes. The six being as follows:

Ozias Locke
John Blake
Edward Smith
Samuel Smith
Moses Perkins
Jonathan Perkins

THE RECORD OF MEN IN THE SERVICE

(Capt. Rowe's Companies)

Capt. Winthrop Rowe took a company of Kensington men to Exeter and marched with them in the attack on Fort William and Mary in Dec., 1774. This was the first armed movement for Independence in America.

Capt. Rowe also took a company to Ipswich early in 1775, when an attack by the British was expected there.

When news of Lexington and Concord reached the town, Parson Fogg opened his pulpit to Capt. Rowe the next Sabbath, that Capt. Rowe might announce he was raising a company to march to Cambridge.

The company was raised and joined Col. Poor's Regiment at Exeter and marched to Cambridge.

THE ROLL OF THE COMPANY (June 3, 1775)

Captain, Winthrop Rowe, age 30 Lieutenant, Abraham Sanborn
Sergeants — Ebenezer Clifford, age 28; Moses Shaw, Jr., age 26
Drummers — John Smith Sanborn, 36; John Lane, 22

Privates

Joseph Bachelder, 30
Josiah Blake, 50
Levi Blake, 18
Samuel Clifford, 19
Joseph Dow, 28
Jonathan Fellows, 18
Joseph Fogg, 22
John Glidden, 21
Josiah Locke, 18
Samuel Longfellow, 21
Jeremiah Moulton, 18
Robert Miller, 21
(a mulatto)
Aaron Page, 30
Phineas Page, 20
Moses Perkins, 32
Jesse Prescott, 18
John Rawlins, 23
Jewett Sanborn, 16
Jere Sanborn, 18
Sherburne Sanborn, 19
David Stewart, 31
John Stevens, 33
Caleb Shaw, Jr., 20
Joseph Shaw, 22
Daniel Weare, 17
Josiah White, 34

Some lists have also, Sgt. Timothy Blake Locke, age 30; James Fogg, age 36; Martin Prescott, age 36.

I find the three listed in Capt. Nay's Co. (Vol. I Rev. Rolls, p. 350); they may have been excused from Rowe's Co. and gone with Capt. Nay.

OUR MEN AT BUNKER HILL

Oral tradition of earlier days says this company was at Bunker Hill. All records of N. H. men at Bunker Hill are incomplete, more than half of the lists are lost. Such records as we have give us some men at Bunker Hill.

Caleb Shaw, Sr. enlisted in Reed's Reg. April 28, 1775 and served to July 10, and was probably there. Jude Hall, the powerful negro, was definitely there. He was a slave on Philemon Blake's farm and ran away and served seven years in the army.

We know that in the shake-up at Cambridge we had several men in Reed's Reg. and Reed had over half the men who were at Bunker Hill, so the oral tradition that Capt. Rowe's Co. was at Bunker Hill may have been correct.

THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ARMY

May 17, 1775, the Provincial Congress at Exeter voted to raise an army of 2000 men to be commanded by Stark, Poor and Reed. Reed

took some of them to Cambridge and later to Bunker Hill. Col. Poor took other men and built fire-rafts to float from Exeter down to Portsmouth if that city were attacked. Others were sent to Rye Beach and Odiorne's Point.

Kensington receipts show Kensington men in this little army but I have found no rolls showing their names, other than Capt. Joseph Clifford and Lt. Moses Shaw who were sent to Pierce's Island.

KENSINGTON MEN IN SULLIVAN'S ARMY

Nov. 30, 1775, Gen. Sullivan from Cambridge asked the New Hampshire Committee for troops to replace the Conn. troops who were leaving on Dec. 6. The Committee of Safety acted promptly and were thanked by Gen. Washington for their promptness. I can find no record of how many were sent, but before December was over New Hampshire had a total of near 5000 men at Cambridge.

Kensington sent several men, being in our town as in other towns, mostly from those who had pledged themselves as minute men.

MEN HIRED BY CAPT. CLIFFORD IN 1777

At a special town meeting held April 3, 1777, the town voted that Capt. Joseph Clifford have charge of hiring men for the army to be sent from Kensington. The records show that in the next two years he hired some 60 men who lived in town and some 30 from out of town.

OUR MEN WITH STARK IN 1777

We had several men with Gen. Stark in his important Saratoga campaign, three of whom were killed in action.

Edward Smith and *Samuel Smith,* brothers, and *Ozias Locke,* were all shot dead on October 15 while fighting under Stark.

THE PEEKSKILL GROUP

Several Kensington soldiers were at Peekskill winter quarters in the New York campaign in the regiment of Col. Tash.

Capt. William Prescott and Lieut. Abraham Sanborn headed a company, and Benjamin Clough was ensign. Ebenezer and Jonathan Prescott were among the privates, others I do not know.

OTHER RECORDS OF DEATH AND SERVICE

Jonathan and *Moses Perkins,* brothers and sons of James, died at the siege of Boston of sickness.

Three sons of Rev. Jeremiah Fogg were in the service:
Major Jeremiah Fogg, adjt. of Col. Poor at the siege of Boston
adjt. in Sullivan's Expedition, 1779
aid-de-camp to Col. Poor in New Jersey
Daniel Fogg, surgeon's mate, 1777 and 1778
Joseph Fogg, sgt. in 1775 in Col. Poor Regiment
1777 with Col. Senter
1779 had charge of Commissary with Col. Senter
Dr. Benj. Rowe, surgeon's mate in Col. Nicholas Rowe's Regiment
Capt. Robt. Pike, in Col. Senter's Battalion
Lieut. Jeremy Bachelder, in Col. Drake's Regiment
Enoch Rowe, QM Sgt.

LIST OF MEN IN THE ARMY OTHER THAN CAPT. ROWE'S COMPANY

Officers

Major Jeremiah Fogg
Capt. Joseph Clifford
Capt. Ezekiel Worthen
Capt. Robert Pike
Capt. Wm. Prescott
Lieut. Enoch Worthen
Lieut. Jeremy Bachelder
Lieut. Abraham Sanborn
QM Sgt. Enoch Rowe
Sgt. Joseph Fogg
Ens. Benj. Clough
Daniel Fogg, surgeon's mate
Dr. Benj. Rowe, surgeon

Privates

Bachelder, Jeremiah
Bickford, Dennis (from Exeter)
Blaisdell, Philip
Blake, Hezekiah
Blake, Moses
Blake, John (died at Albany)
Brown, Amos
Brown, Nathan
Brown, Stephen
Clifford, Edward
Creighton, Thomas *
Colby, Hezekiah *
Clark, Daniel (from Kingston)
Cook, Thomas
Copp, David *
Dame, Benjamin (from Newington)
Dow, Benjamin
Dow, Jabez (from Kingston)
Dow, Reuben
Eastman, Edward (from Exeter)
Eliot, Samuel *
Evens, William, Jr.
Fogg, William
Fellows, Nathaniel
Fellows, Samuel
Flood, Humphrey *
Fulsome, Jeremiah (from Exeter)
French, William

Furnald, William
Fellows, Daniel
Hoyt, Joseph Brown *
Haines, Josiah *
Hodgdon, Hanson
Killey, Will *
Knox, Timothy *
Locke, Ossias
Locke, Edward
Lovering, Nathan
Leavitt, Edward (from Exeter)
Leavitt, William (from Exeter)
Morrison, William *
Mason, Jonathan
Nichols, John *
Page, Charles
Page, Daniel
Page, Enoch
Page, Samuel
Page, Jeremiah
Perkins, Jonathan
Perkins, Moses
Philbrick, David
Prescott, Ebenezer
Prescott, Jonathan
Rawlins, Thomas
Sanborn, David
Sanborn, John
Sanborn, Moses
Sanders, Samuel *
Shaw, Abraham
Shaw, Caleb
Shaw, Isaac
Shaw, Moses
Stickney, Jonathan
Stickney, Levi
Smith, Edward
Smith, Samuel
Smith, Stephen
Snow, Timothy *
Swain, Benjamin (from Hampton Falls)
True, Edward *
True, Daniel
Tuck, Edward
Tuck, Lt. Samuel (went to Brentwood)
Ward, John
Ward, Melzar
Watson, Nathan *
Welsh, Joseph *
Webber, John *
Wilson, Samuel *
Winslow, Samuel *
Wiggin, Winthrop

Of the above Wm. French and Wm. Fernald may be the same man, the names appear at same place on different lists.

Winthrop Wiggin enlisted at Exeter, June 2, 1775 as from Newmarket. He re-enlisted in 1777 and as Sgt. in 1781. Bought the Thomas Cook place when Cook left around 1790. He died here Aug. 31, 1840, age 95 and 8 mo. Hanson Hodgdon enlisted from Dover but came here after the War. He was the last Revolutionary soldier to die, dying Oct. 8, 1840, age 83.

Of the above, Moses Blake, age 36, and John Ward, age 36, went in Capt. Tilton's Co. from Kingston. Nathaniel Fellows was in the Navy, as was Jonathan Fellows of Capt. Rowe's Company, and both cruised off the coast of France striking at British shipping.

* Those starred were hired by Capt. Clifford from other towns. His receipts also show at one time four Kensington men and three Salisbury men for Kensington, whose names are not given, thus a total of 95 men. These in addition to the 33 men who went with Capt. Rowe, and there were also the several "Minute Men" who went in November, 1775 to replace Conn. men, and some whose names appear on N. H. Rolls, thus Kensington must have sent near 150 men into the Revolutionary Army from first to last, about 120 being our own sons and some 30 hired by this town from other towns.

THE KENSINGTON MINUTE MEN

In the late summer of 1775, 50 Kensington men pledged themselves as "Minute Men," to be ready at a minute's notice to march anywhere. Several of them went in November to Cambridge, and nearly all saw service at various times. The list was: —

Joseph Clifford
Benjamin Moulton
Ephrain Fellows
Danial Shaw
Joseph Wadleigh, 4th
Samuel Batchelder
John Lane
Ephraim Eastmen
Josiah Batchelder
Jeremiah Moulton
Edward Melcher
Newel Healey
Marston Prescott
Weare Nudd
John Graves
Caleb Swain
Jona Tilton
Jesse Tucke
Benjamin James, Jr.
Jewett Sanborn
Benjamin Tilton
Richard Dow
Richard Sanborn
Samuel Lamprey
Nathaniel Sherburne
Caleb Shaw, Jr.
Nathaniel Ward
Benjamin Melchar
Benj. Row, Jr. (Surgeon)
Caleb Brown
Elisha Blake, Jr.
Henry Sanborn
Levi Blake
John Prescott
Joseph Brown, Jr.
Hezekiah Blake
Samuel Clifford
John Shaw
Levi Brown
Samuel Prescott
Davis James
Nathaniel Gove
Simon Prescott
Jona Ward
Abram Shaw
Joseph Rowe
John Glidden
Nathaniel Dow
Abel Brown
Stephen Fogg

OUR MILITARY CENSUS OF 1775

August 25 the Provincial Congress ordered a Military Census of the state. Our returns showed the following figures:

Under 16 years of age	172	males
16 to 50 years of age	122	"
Above 50 years of age	49	"
Already in the army	39	"
Total females	413	
Slaves	2	
Total	797	

Firearms ready for use, 100. Powder, flint and bullets ready, 33.

OTHER REVOLUTIONARY MATTERS

The town receipts show that the town furnished liberally its soldiers in the field; we find pork, heifers, powder and bullets and flint, sent in large consignments from time to time.

March 14, 1776, The Provincial Congress ordered the Association Test to be taken in all towns, in order to sift out the "tories," or the "fifth column" of that day. The test-oath read:

> **"We, the subscribers, do hereby solemnly engage and promise, that we will to the utmost of our Powers and at the risque of our Lives and Fortunes, with Arms, oppose the Hostile Proceedings of the British Fleets and Armies against the United American Colonies."**

TORIES BOARDED IN KENSINGTON

Tory sympathizers with England were so numerous in New York State that to prevent them from aiding the enemy Gen. Washington ordered them seized and sent to other communities and boarded during the war. Kensington boarded 20 of these. The homes who boarded them and the names are as follows:

At Nathaniel Weare's
Daniel Bedel
John Vanderburg
Jonathan Dewel
Henry Vanderburg
Bilctis Vanklesk

At Widow Dow's
George Peters
Elias Doty

Peter Vanderburg
Solomon Eltingr

At Jonathan Purinton's
Timothy Dewel
Silas Dewel
Robert Dewel

At Benjamin Moulton's
Casper Rowe
John Schufelt *

At Winthrop Rowe's
Jacob Sharpstone
Dirk Van Vleet
Hugh Mosher
Jonathan Degroof, Jr.

At Nathaniel Healey's
Henry Younghome
Cloor Smith

* John Schufelt remained in Kensington, married and his family lived here till around 1890, when the last one, William Schufelt, died unmarried. A Bedel family remained in town off and on till after the Civil War, probably descending from Daniel listed above.

GRAVES OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

(Old Yard)

Major Jere Fogg
William Fogg
Stephen Brown
Lt. Jesse Tuck
Lt. Abraham Sanborn
Jewett Sanborn
Caleb Hodgdon
Edward Locke
Dr. Benj. Rowe
John Lane
Caleb Shaw
Joseph Fogg

(Lower Yard)

Capt. Winthrop Rowe
Benj. Brown Dow
Winthrop Wiggin
Josiah Blake
Lt. Enoch Worthen
Abraham Shaw
Hanson Hodgdon
Levi Blake
Corp. Hezekiah Blake
Jonathan Fellows
Josiah Locke

Thomas Cook is buried in Salisbury, where he died 1793. Jude Hall is buried in the N. E. corner old yard at Exeter, where he died 1828.

Major Ezekiel Worthen is buried in Old Yard but there is no stone left; he died 1783.

Osias Locke, Edward and Samuel Smith and John Blake, killed in New York campaigns, were buried there, and the bodies of Moses and Jonathan Perkins were buried in Boston.

JUDE HALL

Jude Hall, a colored man who served at Bunker Hill and who was thrown headlong by a cannon ball striking near him, died in 1828 and is buried in the northeast corner of the old yard. He was a powerful man and could lift a barrel of cider and drink from the bunghole. He

was given his freedom and $100 for serving throughout the Revolution and lived in a small house near Judd's Pond on the old road to Exeter.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF KENSINGTON WOMEN

In common with the colonial women of all towns, our Kensington women did their part, often tilling the land while the men were away, and bearing bravely the menace to the farm-home when the man should be killed or die in the army.

The grandmother of Joseph Cilley, the celebrated leader in the Revolution, was a Kensington woman.

Kensington's Part in War of 1812

The proud day in Kensington history came in 1814. There were rumors of attack at Portsmouth; British vessels of war were off Rye Beach, and on the morning of Sept. 11, Capt. Stephen Brown's Company, wearing citizens' clothing but bearing their guns and ammunition in powder horn and bullet pouch, assembled before the old Meeting House, formed on the Meeting House Parade, and headed by drum and fife, marched away to join Col. Lovering's regiment at Portsmouth. They were discharged on Sept. 29 and returned home.

I give below the Roll, and as the men were always proud of their service, and that day of Meeting House Parade was never forgotten, I have given the date of death, with age, following each name, where I could secure it. Most of these dates I copied from the late Weare N. Shaw's list, which he made for using on Decoration Days.

THE ROLL OF CAPT. BROWN'S COMPANY

Officers

NAME	DATE DIED	AGE
Capt. Stephen Brown	Jan. 15, 1855	76
Lieut. Stephen Kimball	Dec. 10, 1841	
Sgt. Jonathan Morrison		
Sgt. Benj. Prescott	Aug. 6, 1845	51
Sgt. Nathan Dow	Apr. 11, 1862	68
Sgt. Caleb Brown	June 12, 1839	46
Corp. Jacob Felch		
Corp. David Prescott	Nov. 17, 1854	58
Corp. Sewell Philbrick		
Corp. Jeremy Bachelder	Jan. 10, 1864	70
Fifer, Caleb Hodgdon	Nov. 1, 1828	38
Drummer, Millard Tilton		

Privates

NAME	DATE DIED	AGE
John Nudd	1867	79
Abraham Rowe	1872	75
Jeremy Wadleigh	1872	79
Benj. Moulton, Jr.	1882	
David Barter		
John Blaisdell	1859	66
Edward True, Jr.		
Samuel Fellows	1830	33
Ephraim Dow		
Daniel Prescott	1869	75
Wm. H. Wadleigh	1826	
Lowell Locke		
Wm. S. Gale		
Sewell Dow	1872	82
Willard Davis		
Lewis Gove	1842	
Newell Dow	1875	81
Jonathan Shaw		
Joel Lane		
Levi Veasey	1836	54
Theo. M. White		
Smith Lamprey	1841	49
Jerry Eaton		
John Page	1867	
John Scribner		
George Day		
Samuel Tucker, Jr.		
Bradbury Peveare		
Oliver James	1831	
Willard Davis		
Jonathan James		
Samuel Tilton		
Joseph W. Healey	1827	31
Thomas Fogg		
Ira Fellows, died at sea,	1819	
Moses King		
Jonathan Hobbs	1841	44
Edw. M. Blaisdell		
John W. Shaw	1852	64
Caleb T. Sanborn	1842	
Sewell Wadleigh	1829	32
Joseph D. Wadleigh	1839	
Gilman Lamprey	1850	55
Stephen Rowe Brown	1825	
Porter Rowe		
Parker H. Wilson		
Reuben Currier		
Benj. Odlin		
Wadley Dow	1845	50
John Weare	1839	63
Nathan Fellows	1836	
Timothy Palmer		
Abel Page	1823	26
Moses Sanborn	1833	
Samuel Currier		
Henry Eaton		
Amos Gove		
Samuel S. Caverly		
Joseph Rowe	1872	
Nathaniel Dow		
James Caverly		

Josiah Blake was Sgt.-Major in Col. Lovering's Regiment. Thus we have 73 men in the Brown Co. and 74 men in the Regiment.

MEN IN 1812 OTHER THAN THE CAPT. BROWN COMPANY

Abraham Shaw
William Rawlins
Samuel Lamprey
John Lamprey
Lewis Lamprey
Porter Wilson
Jeremy Bachelder

Jonathan Hilliard, Lieut. in Artillery Co., died Dec. 20, 1827

Wells Healey, Sgt. in same company

Samuel Tuck, Sgt. in same company, died 1843, age 57

Robert Rowe, went in Stratham Co., died 1861, age 63

Capt. David Simpson, in same Stratham Co., died 1857, age 80

Zacheus Roberts, went in Hampton Co., died at County Farm, 1870, age 80

Gardner Green, went in Hampton Co., died 1875, age 80

Robert Forsaith, called "Doctor," froze to death Jan. 29, 1838

Capt. Henry Brown, who kept tavern here, was on naval vessel from Newburyport

Ira Fellows, in above company went in Navy and was lost at sea, 1819

John Wadleigh, died Feb., 1822, struck on head by John Blaisdell with an axe handle

The Total Number is 91 men.

THE MOSES JAMES INCIDENT

September, 1814, a British war vessel landed some men at Rye Beach. Gov. John Taylor Gilman called out two companies to go to Portsmouth, one from Exeter, Capt. Nathaniel Gilman, and one from Kensington, Capt. Stephen Brown. Seventy-four men went from Kensington. Moses James, a member of the Company, did not want to go and hid in the hay mow. He was found and forced to go. He was only sixteen years of age. In 1855 the government gave a bounty of 168 acres of land to those who had served fourteen days. Owing to the hay mow incident Moses James served only eleven days. Squire Ira Blake represented Mr. James and made the point that seventeen miles is a military day's travel and that Kensington was twenty miles from Portsmouth. Hence James should be allowed three days for travel. The Governor sustained the point and James received the land and sold it for $160, a dollar an acre being the going price. James lived at Brick School House Corner, the old house being burned in 1912.

The Mexican War, 1847

Kensington had two of its sons serve in this War, and both later served in the Civil War; they were: —

Ferdinand L. Blake John V. Hodgdon

Blake served in the infantry under Franklin Pierce and Hodgdon was leader of the band on Commodore Connor's flag-ship at the bombardment of Vera Cruz.

Kensington Men in the War to Save the Union

CIVIL WAR MEN, CITIZENS OF THE TOWN AND HIRED BY THE TOWN

Below we note lists of Kensington men who went into the army from Kensington. Then the Kensington men who went in from other places. And last the men who were hired by the town to serve as substitutes for citizens drafted or to fill quotas set by the government. We find —

62 Went as from Kensington
30 Went from other places
24 Went, hired by the Town as Substitutes, etc.

Thus 116 is the total number of men Kensington contributed to the "Army of the Blue" that marched south to put down rebellion.

Nine Kensington men died in action or of wounds in action. Five died of sickness at the front. Five died of sickness after they returned, as a result of the service. Thus the War cost Kensington just 19 lives of its young men. The service of the 24 who went as substitutes I have not attempted to trace.

Four brothers from the Austin family were in the army, as were four brothers from the Hodgdon family, and four brothers from the Tibbetts family.

OUR ROLL OF HONOR

(Kensington Men, entered as from Kensington, who gave their lives)

KILLED IN ACTION OR DIED FROM WOUNDS

Daniel C. Durgin, enlisted Dec. 20, 1861, Co. B, 8th N. H. Vols. Wounded May 27, 1863 and died at Baton Rouge, La., June 24. Body brought home and buried in Exeter. Was living here when he went.

John Riley, enl. Aug. 2, 1861, served 3 years. Re-enlisted Jan. 1, 1864, Co. B, 3rd N. H. Killed in action Oct. 27, 1864, at Richmond, Va.

Corporal Charles Rowe, shot dead while carrying the colors across a battle field in a charge at Deep Bottom, Va. He enlisted in 1861, served 3 years and re-enlisted Co. B, 3rd N. H., in 1864.

Jonathan B. Rowe, enl. Sept. 8, 1862, Co. H, 11th N. H. Wounded May 15, 1864 at Fredericksburg and died May 19 and buried there.

Frank H. Wadleigh, enlisted Aug. 17, 1864, Co. G, 5th N. H., age 19; shot dead by rebel sharpshooter while lighting his pipe on sentry duty.

(Kensington men, entered from Kensington, who died of sickness at the front)

Warren Chase, enl. Sept. 9, 1862, Co. L, First N. E. Cavalry; died Feb. 3, 1865.

Jeremiah LeRoy Hilliard, entered the Navy, 1861; died in a Philadelphia Hospital in 1862.

Edmund Rowell, enl. Sept. 8, 1862, Co. I, 11th N. H.; died in Kentucky Oct. 5, 1863, age 24.

George W. Shaw, son of J. Weare (Potter) Shaw, died at Chattanooga, Jan. 4, 1865.

William H. Walton, died at Fort Monroe, 1864.

In addition to the above, 2 men returned from the service in such condition that they lived only a short time. They were:

Stephen Hoitt Brown	Died May 18, 1866
Amos Rowell	Died Aug. 9, 1865

LIST OF MEN WHO SERVED TO RETURN HOME

Joseph Newton Austin, enl. Sept. 14, Co. E, 13th N. H. Mustered out for disability Feb. 23, 1863.

An active man in town many years, moderator, selectman, representative. Died in Newton, N. H., at home of his son Frank. Buried here.

Benj. Frank Austin, went as substitute for Jeremiah Hilliard in Aug., 1863, Co. K, 10th N. H.; transferred to Co. D, 2nd N. H. Served through War. Died in Newton.

Edward P. Austin, enl. Sept. 15, 1864, Co. B, 18th N. H. Served one year. Died Mar. 2, 1912.

James S. Austin, enl. Sept. 15, 1864, Co. B, 18th N. H., age 29. Served one year. Died Aug. 20, 1914.

Albert A. Bachelder, enl. Sept 3, 1862, Co. C, 6th N. H. Served through War. Died in Stratham, Sept. 9, 1908, age 65; buried there.

Charles E. Bachelder, enl. Nov., 1861. Served 3 years and re-enlisted and served to end of War. Died in Haverhill, Mass.

George Baston, enl. in Navy in 1861, same time as Tom Bunker. Served 4 years, died in Maine.

Ferdinand L. Blake, was a veteran of the Mexican War, enl. Sept. 9, 1862, Co. L, First N. E. Cav. Transferred to Invalid Corps, Apr. 6, 1864. Died here Feb. 13, 1886, age 61; buried in East Kingston.

George Blake, enl. Sept. 23, 1862, Co. D, 14th N. H. Served through War. Kept store and was postmaster, 1886-1890. Died May 2, 1892, age 61.

Henry T. Blake, was in South with Labor Service, came home through Boston and enl. there in 1864 to fill a Battery at Fort Gloucester.

William F. Blake, enl. Sept. 9, 1862, Troop L, First N. E. Cav. Trans. to Invalid Corps, March 15, 1864. Died in Lynn Aug. 2, 1875.

Amos Brown, enl. Sept. 6, 1862, Co. I, 11th N. H. Mustered out as Corporal June 4, 1865. Went West to Illinois, where he died.

John Brown, brother of Amos, enl. same time in same Co. as Amos. Was severely wounded at Cold Harbor, June 4, 1864, mustered out April, 1865. Went West to Colorado and died at Soldiers Home in Cali when past 90 years of age. Mustered out as corporal.

Ira E. Brown, enl. Oct. 6, 1862, Co. D, 14th N. H. Served through War. Died from accident at Exeter on "Town Hill" Dec. 22, 1892.

James W. W. Brown, enl. Sept. 9, 1862, Troop L, First N. E. Cav. Died Aug. 19, 1916. Buried here. Served through War. Performed "distinguished service" carrying dispatches at Battle of Gettysburg.

Stephen Henry Brown, Co. E, 13th N. H., enl. Sept. 19, 1862. Trans. to Band June 30, 1863. Discharged for sickness July 10, 1863. Died June 30, 1877, age 42.

Stephen Hoitt Brown, enl. Sept. 13, 1862, Co. L, First N. E. Cav. Mustered out for sickness June 4, 1863. Re-enlisted in 1865 in Veterans Reserve Corps. Died in town May 18, 1866, age 25. Buried here.

Thomas R. Bunker, enlisted in Navy in 1861 for 4 years. Died in Dover, Feb., 1890. Served the four years. Tom Bunker was an ex-navy man who came here around 1855 and worked for Tom Flanders. When the halyard slipped on the "Buck and Beck" flagpole in 1856 he climbed to the top and restored with a large group of onlookers. The feat was still much talked of when I was a lad, 30 years later.

George R. Cilley, enl. Sept. 14, 1862 in Co. E, 13th N. H.; transferred to Navy and mustered out there April 28, 1864.

Isaac Cohen, enl. Oct. 10, 1862 in Co. D, 14th N. H. A Manchester boy working here. Served through War.

John Ed Collins, enl. Troop L, 1st N. E. Cav., Sept. 9, 1862. Discharged for disability Feb. 28, 1863.

John A. Currier, enl. Sept. 15, 1864 for one year, Co. B, 18th N. H. Died in Exeter March 21, 1912. Buried here.

Moses D. Dresser, enl. Sept. 3, 1862, Co. I, 11th N. H.; trans. to Invalid Corps, Sept., 1863. Died 1872, Oct. 16, at Bradford, Mass., age 53.

Rufus Eastman, enl. Sept. 19, 1862 in Co. E, 13th N. H. Served through War. Died here May 9, 1888, age 61. Buried here.

John L. Eaton, enl. Sept. 16, 1862, Co. L, First N. E. Cav. Served through War. Died here Oct. 6, 1909, age 70.

Edward E. Fellows, enl. Sept. 3, 1862, Co. I, 11th N. H. He served through the War. He was born March 12, 1841 and was shortest man in his Regiment and shortest man from Kensington, 5 feet and 3 inches.

Joseph O. George, enl. Sept. 9, 1862, Co. L, First N. E. Cav. Mustered out for sickness Feb. 19, 1863. Drafted 1864 and served in Co. D, 5th N. H., until discharged for sickness Sept. 4, 1864. Died in Amesbury and buried there.

Andrew Gove, enl. Sept. 9, 1862, Co. L, First N. E. Cav. Served through War. Went West in 1866, was here in 1904 and said he had 3000 turkeys, 80 horses, 400 hogs, 150 acres of corn and 100 acres of oats.

Lewis E. Gove, enl. Sept. 23, 1862, Co. I, First N. E. Cav.; trans. to Invalid Corps, Sept. 30, 1863. Was active in politics after the war, held various town offices and was representative. Died June 29, 1899, age 74.

John P. M. Green, enl. Sept. 14, 1863 in 1st N. H. Light Battery. Served through the War. Lived in Haverhill after the War and died there. Was a school teacher before going to Haverhill.

Jonathan T. Hilliard, enl. Sept. 9, 1862, Co. I, 11th N. H.; wounded at Fredericksburg Dec. 13, 1862; recovered and served through War and mustered out June 4, 1865. Died in Kingston Jan. 23, 1899, age 66.

Capt. Caleb Hodgdon, captain of Co. D, 14th N. H., enl. Sept. 20, 1862 and served through the War. Was many years a dentist in Boston. Returned to Kensington when he retired to live with his sister, Mrs. Henry Mitchell. Was elected Master of the Grange in 1903 and died same year. His picture hangs in Grange Hall.

John V. Hodgdon, veteran of Mexican War, enl. in Band 1862, served through the War. Died in Lynn Oct. 6, 1881, age 64.

William H. Hodgdon, enl. Sept. 23, 1862, Co. D, 14th N. H. Served through War. Died here Oct. 6, 1894, age 74. Buried here.

Charles E. Hull, enl. Sept. 13, 1862 in Co. L, First N. E. Cavalry. Reported "missing" June 30, 1864. Imprisoned in Andersonville till close of war, when released weighed less than 100 lbs. Died Feb. 27, 1909, age 70.

Samuel L. Lamprey, enl. Sept. 23, 1862, Co. I, First N. E. Cav. Served through the War. Active in politics after the War, served on School Board, etc. Died of cancer April 26, 1885.

Jeremiah K. Leavitt, enl. Oct. 10, Co. D, 14th N. H. Served through War. Died at Soldiers Home in Tilton Aug. 29, 1893, age 80.

Frank Morrison, hired man at farm of Calvin Sawyer, enlisted in the 7th N. H. Regiment. Subsequent history unknown.

Hyla D. Peacock, enl. Oct. 10, 1862, Co. D, 14th N. H. Served through War. Died in Seabrook 1906, age 79; buried here.

George E. Ramsdell, enl. Sept. 16, 1862, Co. B, 3rd N. H. Discharged for disability 1863. Lived in Newburyport many years and died

there, Sept. 26, 1907, age 76. He was a very large and powerful man, once carried two barrels of flour from Blake store to pump and back on a wager of $5.00.

George Porter Rowe, enl. Sept. 9, 1862 in Troop L, 1st N. E. Cav. Served through the War. Died March 21, 1871, age 28.

Amos Rowell, enl. Oct. 1, 1862, Co. D, 14th N. H. Came home at end of War in poor health. Was confined some months at Portsmouth jail because of debts of wife while he was away; contracted consumption and died Aug. 9, 1865. Buried here.

David C. Smith, enl. Sept. 24, 1862, Co. E, 13th N. H. Discharged for disability 1863. Died in Kingston in 1893.

Rufus Spalding, enl. Sept. 16, 1862 in Co. B, 7th N. H. Transferred to Invalid Corps Sept. 1, 1863. Died in Newburyport.

Denis Sullivan, a hired man in town who enlisted in 1862 or 1863, but I have not the record of his service.

Franklin Tilton, enl. Sept. 17, 1862, Co. I, First N. E. Cav. Wounded at Kelly's Ford. Died in Lynn of cancer, Sept. 22, 1895, age 55. Tilton had badly clumped feet and could not have served in any branch save the Cavalry.

George A. P. Wadleigh, enl. Sept. 16, 1862 in Co. B, 7th N. H. Served through the War. Died in Haverhill, Mass., Sept. 8, 1913, as result of accident, his team struck by trolley car. Age 72.

He was the son of Mark J. Wadleigh, killed by a falling tree, and his grandfather was killed in the same way and near the same place. Thus the three generations died of accidents.

The following group of men were in the South in the Labor service with several others. When they were returning through Boston early in 1864 they enlisted to fill a Battery at a Fort in Gloucester.

Henry T. Blake, named after Dr. Tuck and always called "doctor."

Addison R. Brown, died June 29, 1880. Son of Dr. Jonathan Brown.

Benjamin F. Rowe, died June 12, 1910, age 65. He was the father of Hon. Stewart E. Rowe, mayor of Portsmouth.

George Wadleigh, he went West after the War and died in Missouri.

Frank L. Wadleigh, lived in Kensington and died here. Son of Capt. Bill Wadleigh.

KENSINGTON MEN WHO ENTERED THE ARMY FROM OTHER TOWNS

I have the records of no less than 22 young men, born and lived here, but who were away in 1861-1863 and enlisted where they were working at the time. Among such young men were some who made the supreme sacrifice and whom we place on

THE ROLL OF HONOR

William H. H. Austin, working in Sandown and enlisted in 1861 from that town or Manchester. Sent home sick and died January 14, 1862. Buried here.

Capt. James Mallon, step-son of Capt. Bill Wadleigh, killed in Wilmington, N. C., 1865.

William Nudd, son of John Nudd, enlisted in Exeter, Sept. 15, 1862, Co. I, 15th N. H.; reached Exeter from the front sick on Aug. 8, 1863 and died two days later. Buried here.

He was 46 when he died. His wife died in Chelsea Oct. 27, 1905, age 82, also buried here. His father, John Nudd, died Jan. 10, 1867, age 80.

Warren V. Tibbetts, enlisted in the 33 Mass. Regiment, killed in battle in Virginia March 15, 1863, Stafford Court House.

The family was a Kensington family; all four of the sons of Jonathan entered the service but none from Kensington.

MEN WHO DIED OF SICKNESS

George W. Tibbetts, was working in Maine, entered the 15th Maine Regiment, Co. D, came home sick and died here Dec. 15, 1865.

Silas M. Chase, son of John, entered the 33rd Mass. Regiment with Warren Tibbetts above, came home sickly, died of consumption at Hartford, Conn., Feb. 16, 1867, age 29. He served 3 years and reenlisted.

Orrin Hull, brother of Charles, came home in consumption from the war, and died in a few years. Where he enlisted and his record of service I have been unable to find.

OTHERS WHO ENLISTED IN OTHER PLACES

Abijah C. Austin, went from Sandown.

James M. Davis, went from Exeter, 1864. Died here Aug. 29, 1885, age 39; buried here. Was in prison when Lee surrendered.

Jeremiah F. Dearborn, went from Exeter.

——— Dearborn, a younger brother, went from Exeter.

Frank Eaton, brother of John L., went from Lynn in Mass. Heavy Artillery.

Frank T. Hilliard, went from Lynn.

George V. Hodgdon, went from Lynn, 14th Mass. Reg. Heavy Artillery.

Elijah Shaw, went from Maine.

Jackson Shaw, went from New York.

John H. Shaw, went from Lynn in 33rd Mass. Was with Sherman in his march to the sea. Died here Jan. 15, 1871.

Weare N. Shaw, went from Mass., 3rd Reg. Coast Artillery. Enlisted Dec. 3, 1863 for 3 years; mustered out at Gallops Island Sept. 28, 1865.

Harvey D. Sanborn, from Amesbury.

Jonathan P. Tibbetts, went from Exeter in 1861, 8th N. H. Reg. Tibbetts enlisted Dec. 20, Co. B; discharged for disability July 5, 1862. Later entered the Navy. Died in Exeter and buried there.

Henry K. Wadleigh enlisted at Newburyport. After the War he married Caroline Walton, third daughter of William Walton, and they moved to Wisconsin and took land.

Capt. John Wadleigh, who ran the Blake store around 1855, moved to Ill. and raised a company when the war broke out. He died in Rutland, Illinois, in 1900. His brother Daniel went with him.

Capt. Wadleigh has an excellent record as a soldier. When his Col. was wounded he was put in command of the regiment.

John T. Stokes, whose father lived in various places around Shaw's Hill and worked for Charles Hilliard making boots, was in the army, but I can not find his record of service.

James H. Chase, went in the army in a Massachusetts regiment and after the war had a position in the City Hall in Boston.

Corp. John M. Mallon, went from Exeter. The mother of John and James Mallon was by name a Marshall; she married Mr. Mallon of Boston, first, and after his death she married Capt. Bill Wadleigh. John lived with his step-father till 13 years of age when he ran away to sea, went round the world on a merchantman and then spent several years fishing at Labrador. He then left the sea and learned the trade of carriage-maker and was working in Exeter when the war broke out. He enlisted May 11, 1861 at the first call and served through the entire war.

He came to this town in 1878 with a few comrades to decorate the graves of other Civil War soldiers buried here, which was the first time such decorations were made.

Thus we have noted 25 Kensington men in the service from other places. To these the List of Harold Blake adds Furber Dow, Henry V. Crosby and William Collins. George H. Brown, shoemaker, and John Howe, a farm-hand, also went from out of town, thus our total reaches 30, residents of Kensington who served from other places.

MEN SENT INTO THE SERVICE AS SUBSTITUTES FOR MEN DRAFTED IN TOWN

(The Draft of July, 1863)

Edward Kelly, Co. D, 5th N. H., for George W. Green.

James Breme (alias J. Valiere), Co. B, 13th Reg., Aug. 11, 1863, for Weare N. Shaw. (Shaw himself later entered the service from Massachusetts, thus giving the service of two men instead of one.)

John Mitchell, Co. C, 9th N. H., Dec. 14, 1863, for Daniel Ellery Palmer.

John Frazier, Co. M, 10th N. H., for 3 yrs., Sept., 1863, for Cyrus O. Brown.

Gasper Alback, Co. A, 13th N. H., for 3 yrs., Aug. 11, 1863, for Jerry Dow.

G. Straef, entered Sept. 22, 1863, for Charles E. Tuck.

B. Frank Austin, a local man, went for Jeremiah Hilliard.

Matthew Roach, Co. K, 10th N. H., for 3 years, Sept., 1863, for Joseph O. George.

(The Draft of 1864)

William Webster, in the Navy for 3 years, for Joseph N. Healey.

(Entered Aug. 2, 1864)

Roderick McCloud, in Navy, July 29, 1864, for Thos. C. Shaw.

William Wilson, Aug. 8, 1864 for 3 years, for John C. French.

Barney McGough, in Navy, Aug., 1864, for Warren Lamprey.

Isaac F. Wilson, Aug., 1864, for Clinton Gove.

Edward Williams, Oct. 6, 1864 for one year, for Josiah D. Prescott.

Maurice Murphy, Oct. 11, for 3 years, for Benj. G. Moulton.

John May, Oct. 26, 1864 for 3 years, for Benj. F. Lovering.

William Murphy, Jan., 1865 for 3 years, for Theodore K. Mace.

James M. Davis, a local man, went for Joseph Chase Hilliard, who was at that time living in Exeter.

Pat McCloud for Thomas J. Harris, Oct. 7, 1864 for 3 years.

(Lincoln's Call for 300,000)
(The town sent the following)
All in Dec., 1863

John Adams
John Ford
John Brown
John Stone
John Sampson
John Wenchel
William Brown

Francis Hilliard in the Draft of 1864 was excused because of dependent mother.

James Cilley received a bounty for entering the service but I find no record of his service, and think he did not enter.

Following the War, several veterans lived here in town for many years, among them being:

George Brown, Dudley Brown, Charles R. Gove, Henry V. Cook, Robert T. Brown, Elder James Graves.

Daniel Stillson, inventor of the Stillson wrench, married a girl from Shaw's Hill and has close connections in town.

The above list shows 24 men hired by the town to go as substitutes or to fill the town's quota.

Kensington Men in the World War

Kensington sent six men into the war with Germany. Five served on European soil (one giving his life) and the one who did not get overseas proved his worth at his station by receiving a commission. Three of the boys went direct from Kensington, and three went from other towns or states.

THE TOWN'S GOLD STAR SOLDIER

LeRoy F. Goddard; parents and his two children lived in the house that was the first "Christian" Church building, later called the Jerry Dow place. He went with the regiment raised at Haverhill, Mass., saw several months' service in Europe, was gassed twice, and died of pneumonia following last attack; is buried outside of Paris.

MEN WHO WENT OVERSEAS

Louis F. Strout, in 303rd heavy artillery, battery A; entered service September, 1917, discharged May 1, 1919; served ten months overseas.

James Stuart MacKay entered service December 1, 1917; discharged March, 1919; attached to medical corps, fifth evacuation hospital, ten months overseas.

Daniel Everett Palmer entered service by volunteer enlistment, June, 1918; served overseas, attached to 331st bakery company.

TWO KENSINGTON BOYS WHO ENTERED FROM OTHER TOWNS

Lieut. Gilman Shaw Rowe went from Exeter; received a commission in the service of the heavy coast artillery.

Donald Fish McGonigal, a cousin of Ralph Fish, of this town, and living here at outbreak of the war, went with the regiment raised at Haverhill, Mass.; several months' service overseas in the Yankee Division, promoted to second lieutenant.

KENSINGTON MEN AND WOMEN IN WORLD WAR 2

William A. Anderson
Melvin G. Armstrong, Jr.
Arthur C. Aucoin
John C. Ayers
Charles W. Beckman
Frank R. Beckman
Charles H. Bickford
Harold Bodwell, Jr.
Elmer Carl Brewer
Eugene C. Brewster
Ray L. Brewster
Charles E. Brown
Norman F. Brown
Oscar W. Brown
James C. Colby
Rodney C. Colby
Albert Colson
Frederick Colson
John Crowell
H. Russell Crowell
John Davis
Robert M. Dolan
Robert D. Eastman
Frederic Eastman
J. Douglas Evans
J. Theodore Fish
Walter Greenwood
Ambrose Groetz
Edward Hale
Charles R. Hutchinson, Jr.
Edwin F. Jordan
Herbert M. Jordan
Ralph W. Jordan
Robert Jordan
Horace C. Knight
Kenneth D. Lord
Leonard Miller, Jr.
Richard Miller
Ernest Mitchell
George Mobbs
Raymond Morley
Howard T. Outwater, Jr.
Horace E. Palmer
Ernest G. Perfect
Norman F. Prescott
Richard D. Prescott
John L. Quirk, Jr.
Richard Reifke
John Rizzo
Geo. W. Robinson
Earl Rogers, Jr.
James R. Rosencrantz
Howard P. Rounsefell
William J. Simon
Robert E. Wadleigh
William H. Wadleigh
Arthur W. Wiggin
Bernard L. Wilbur
Joseph W. Wilbur
Richard M. Wilbur
Elberto R. York

THE FIRST YOUNG WOMEN IN TOWN TO SERVE IN MILITARY SERVICE

Helen F. Ashton
Katherine Cram
Mary Ellen Finneran
Edna M. Jordan
Marcia E. York

MEN WHOSE WIVES OR FAMILIES LIVE HERE THOUGH THEY ENTERED ELSEWHERE

Herman Bohl
Richard Boyd
Leslie Briggs
John M. Chase
Joseph Dollen
Eric Hawes
Edward T. Irving
Robert Gordon Perfect

Robert W. Miller and Charlie Irving were discharged from training camps for physical reasons.

THE FOLLOWING NATIVES OF THE TOWN ENTERED FROM OTHER PLACES

Joseph Frank Austin
Theodore Brown
* Raynold J. Nudd
Clement Calvin Sawyer

* Mr. Nudd was killed in action in France, Dec. 30, 1944.

CHAPTER 12

THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN KENSINGTON THE "HOUSEHOLD" SCHOOL, THE "MOVING" SCHOOL, DISTRICT SCHOOLS, THE PRESENT SYSTEM

> "Satan worketh mightily in our province by keeping our men from learning to read, so that they may not know the Scripture and get eternal salvation, even now they are translated from an unknown tongue."

Such was the recorded view of the Massachusetts General Court in 1647, and it was promptly voted that every town having 50 houses should hire a man to teach to read and write all who came to him, and that the parents should pay this teacher his wages, these wages to be uniform in the several towns.

This statute governed Hampton till New Hampshire became a separate province. In 1714 the N. H. Assembly passed a law to compel selectmen to keep "Meeting houses," "School houses" and "Minister's houses" in good condition and to assess taxes to pay for the same.

In 1719 the Assembly passed a law compelling towns of 50 families to provide public schools. In 1721 the Assembly voted to fine selectmen 20 pounds in any town where schools were not provided if 50 families lived there, and that in a town of 100 families a Grammar school should be set up.

Our "Household" Schools

Our first Parish meeting was held April 18, 1737 but the business first at hand was to settle a minister and establish public worship and build roads to the Meeting House, this took several meetings that year.

The March meeting of 1738 set up a "Household" school in the home of Ezekiel Dow, first town clerk, when it voted:

> "There shall be raised 40 pounds for schooling our children; a school to be kept on Horsehill road, Stumpfield road and Drinkwater road in proportion as each shall pay. Philip Dow, Philip Griffin, Moses Blake dissent."

Mr. Dow was hired and records in the Town Clerk's book on May 29, 1738 "To-day began to keep school in my house."

To carry out the intent of the vote school was kept part of the time in the Meeting House by Squire Dow, and there is no record of any other teacher, or school being kept save in Mr. Dow's house and the Meeting House in 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, except that in cold days the Meeting House school was adjourned to the house of Mr. Evens opposite.

1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, Dr. Benj. Rowe and Squire Dow were the teachers, and each taught in his home. The Dow home was the house in which Eddie Morrill now lives, and the Rowe home was the house where at present Harold and Nellie Dickinson live.

In 1746 it was voted to have three schools, one on each road, with three teachers, and Mr. Benjamin Dearborn was hired to fill the quota, the other two being Squire Dow and Dr. Rowe. Mr. Dearborn kept his school in a room hired of Elihu Chase, whose home stood 75 yards toward East Kingston from the present home of Everett Mace.

In 1750 there was dissatisfaction with the schools and it was voted in the negative on the following article:

"To see if the Parish will insist upon having a Grammar School and pass it to a vote that some man answer who can read, write and sifer well."

The First School Buildings

Though the article was turned down the selectmen hired the house of Deacon Abraham Moulton on the North road and children from the North side of the town went there. The next year the town bought the Moulton house for 26 pounds. This was the first building the town owned for educational purposes. It stood opposite the Gadd shoe shop on the land of Mrs. Annie (Brown) Philbrick and had been the original home of Deacon Moulton, who had built a new house further up the hill and opposite Round Hill.

This Moulton house was evidently one of the early single story homes built by the settlers, around 14 by 30 feet, with fireplace in one end, and it made an ample school room. A long winter term was held for the whole town, large boys and girls attended, and out-of-town school masters were hired, Mr. Parker 1753-1757; Mr. Pike 1759-60 and Mr. Janvrin 1760-61.

The earliest building put up for school purposes is mentioned in Town Meeting records in 1760, in connection with the new "Peak" road by John Weare's home, where it speaks of "The school-house standing North side of the home of John Weare."

1744 was a hard year to collect the "rates," Parson Fogg received only 48 lbs. on his salary and only 11 lbs. was paid for "schooling"; in 1745 only 35 lbs. was paid for "schooling"; 1752 we first find a rate to be raised set by the Province. In 1746, the first year of three schools, Sq. Dow was paid 50 lbs.; Dr. Rowe, 43 lbs.; Mr. Dearborn, 25 lbs.; total, 118 lbs.

1748 the first teacher outside the town was hired, a Mr. Adams; he was followed by Samuel Shaw of Kensington; evidently he was too

expensive for he was paid 205 lbs., while Shaw who followed and taught as long only received 85 lbs. and 19 shillings.

In addition to the homes named above the "household" school was kept at the home of Widow Ward (the Walton place of 1842 to 1890), at the home of Samuel Fellows, at the home of Benj. Dearborn and the home of William Evens.

EARLY TEACHERS

In addition to Squire Dow, Dr. Rowe and Mr. Benjamin Dearborn, early teachers were: Mr. Parker of Portsmouth between 1753 and 1757; Mr. Pike, 1759-60; the celebrated Hampton Falls master, Mr. Jefferson Janvrin, kept the school part of 1760 and in 1761; the picture of this dignified man can be seen at page 346 in Hurd's HISTORY OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY; it shows how in dignity and power the old school-master could rank next to the minister.

1762, the last year before the Grammar school, for the first time a woman was hired; Mary Page was paid 62 pounds for keeping school that year.

The Grammar School

March 7, 1762, the first meeting held by the town when it held full town rights, it voted to build a Grammar School and —

"State it in the center of the town, between the north and south lines of the Parish, near the Meeting House."

Jonathan Swain, John Green, Jr. and Jonathan Brown were appointed the committee to locate and build the school house, it to be 20 feet square beside the chimney, one story high and with one smoke.

In 1763 it was ready and used, its furnishings being "a grate chair for ye master," for which Moses Shaw was paid 6 lbs. John Sherburne was paid 21 lbs. and 10 shillings for a table for ye "school house."

In 1763, '64, '65, '66, the several teachers were Mr. Seals, Timothy Hilyard, Jonathan Brown, Mr. Ordway, Mr. Sawyer, and William Parker of Portsmouth, later a lawyer at Exeter and Registrar of Probate.

In 1767 a hot town meeting was held on the question of giving up the Grammar school and going back to small schools, one on each road. It was defeated and Ebenezer Potter of Ipswich and a graduate from Harvard in 1766, was hired as master, but Hannah Moody and Shuah Eastman were hired to teach small schools for small children in various schools on Drinkwater, Stumpfield and Horse Hill roads. The same vote was taken in 1768, 1769, 1770.

The "Moving" Schools

In 1774 the town voted to continue the Grammar school during the "temperate season" but in cold weather to have a school on each road, each road to provide its building and pay for the teacher.

Five small school houses, about 10 by 14 feet, were built. The South road was content with one school house, built near the home of John Weare (head of Beaver Dam road). The Middle road had two, one at the entrance to Peveare Lane, corner of the Main road, and one on upper Stumpfield. The North road had two, one at the entrance to Red Oak Ridge and the other on land of Jonathan Prescott, near Dr. Rounsefell's.

School moved around, being kept a part of the time in each. These little buildings had two rows of benches, with the floor at the back a foot higher than the front, so every pupil was ever under the eye of the master. East Andover, N. H., has an excellent little building of the type. The plan worked well and in 1779 it was voted to dispose of the Grammar school entirely and Samuel Prescott, Isaac Fellows and Capt. Nathanial Gove were chosen a committee to sell it, and the "moving" schools held sway till 1798.

The District Schools

1797 action to build better school houses and establish the same amount of schooling on each road was demanded. A Warrant was posted having the following alternative articles:

1 — To go back to one central school. 2 — To have 2 schools, one on the North and one on the South. 3 — To have 4 schools, one in each quarter of the town. 4 — To have 3 schools on the South and 2 schools on the North. 5 — To have a Grammar school in the center and two small schools, one on the North and one on the South. 6 — To have 3 schools one on each road.

The last article prevailed and in 1798 the three buildings were up and in use.

Oct. 4, 1797, Robert Prescott sold 1520 sq. feet for a school house on the Middle road, at the head of Trundle-Bed Lane, now Mace's corner.

Oct. 12, 1797, Elijah Shaw sold for $10.00, 1300 square rods of land, where the present Brick school house stands, for a school house.

Oct. 12, Joseph Weare sold for $10, 1520 sq. feet at the corner above his house, now the corner that goes to South Hampton by Mr. Greenwood's.

The buildings erected before the spring of 1798 were uniform in size and type, square with peaked roof. That on the North road was

moved off in 1842 to make room for the Brick building and is now the house on the right, this side of the brick house. The building on the Middle road in 1873 was moved to become David Brown's barn and still stands. That on the South road was sold to Rev. Mr. Eldridge. He used some of the lumber in his barn and sold the rest to Stephen Sawyer who used it in 1875 to build his barn, which was taken down in 1916.

SCHOOL-MASTERS IN THE EARLY DISTRICTS

Samuel Griffin, Ezekiel Little, William Fogg, Jonathan Cooper Hill, Eliphalet Webster, Charles Chase, were teachers in the Districts established in 1798. Little wrote while here his celebrated book on mathematics, and Eliphalet was also co-author of a Gazeteer.

The District Division of 1839

This year the town was divided into two districts instead of three, the North Road to be District No. 1, and the Middle and South Roads to be District No. 2. District No. 2 retained its two school houses, alternating terms between them.

Under the system set up by the legislature in 1830, each district held its annual meeting in its school house, raised money, paid bills, chose its treasurer and a Prudential Committee to have oversight of the district. The town at its regular meeting chose a Superintending Committee to have charge of the schools of the town and general oversight. In Kensington the committee in both instances was one person, the Superintending Committee being most of the time a local minister, Mr. Eldridge, Rev. Philip Titcomb, et al. Jonathan Palmer, William Hilliard, Deacon Stephen Brown were laymen who served each several terms as Superintending Committee.

This system continued till 1886. Chapter 43 of the Acts of 1885 in the legislature discontinued the old system and caused control of the schools to be settled in a town school meeting and election of a Board of Education.

This new system in town revived a clash between North and South sides of the town that had started in 1732.

The North side had about 4-9 of the pupils and the South had 5-9, yet the South had two schools and near 2-3 the money; this the North fought tooth and nail while the South just as bitterly fought to retain it. We could write several pages of memories of those bitter annual fights between 1886 and 1896.

The last District Meeting in the brick school-house, District No. 1, was held March 14, 1885, always the Saturday following the Town

Meeting. Charles E. Tuck was moderator; Edwin N. Kimball, clerk; Leroy S. Sanborn, treasurer. For Prudential Committeeman, Mr. Tuck had 1, Daniel Russell Prescott 11, John Adams Blake 15, and was elected and sworn to office. After paying Lizzie S. Titcomb $313.50 for teaching 33 weeks, and fuel, care of school house and other bills to the amount of a total of $365.55 for the year, Mr. Sanborn had a balance on hand of 15 cents and the district had no debt.

The last District Meeting in the East School House was held April 14, 1885, Samuel Batchelder was moderator, Sidney C. Chase was clerk. For Prudential Committee John F. Gill had 7 votes and Frank A. Mace had 30 and was chosen and sworn to office. The record of the previous years showed 30 weeks of school by two teachers, total expenses $396.00.

One who studies the records of the old District system quickly sees that under it the people got more of the money expended than has ever been their lot to get in any other political form of government.

I open the Records of District No. 1, and read the figures for the year 1855. The collector of rates in the District turned into the treasury $308.05, and from other sources and a balance to total $317.32.

On this education was to be provided for a total of 45 pupils. Miss Sarah J. Eaton taught 40 weeks at $5.25 per week — $210.00. The purchase and sawing of wood, setting broken glass, buying broom, water pail and dipper, curtains for windows, fixing a door and lock for same, with $3.70 interest on borrowed money, made up the rest, $317.32.

TEACHERS IN THE DISTRICTS, 1830-1885

School-masters in the winter term and school-mistresses in the summer term was the order. Hosea C. Knowlton, Mr. Balch, Nathan C. Dow, Rufus K. Hilliard, Joseph Chase Hilliard, Mr. Harriman, were some of the teachers. Miss Hoitt, a 200 pound old-maid teacher who could handle any boy and Miss Maria Lyford were celebrated early women teachers between 1840 and 1860. Later came Misses Laura and Ellen Smith, Susan Brown, Lizzie and Sarah Hilliard, Maria Blake, Clara Rowe, Emma Blodgett, Ella Badger, Agnes Badger, Clara Kimball, Lydia Bachelder, Lizzie S. Titcomb.

The North school was largest and hardest and tradition gives us many interesting episodes of its work from 1830 to the Civil War.

Many a "knock down and drag-out" scrap between teacher and 18 year old pupil. Rufus K. Hilliard was a robust man and was nicknamed "Rufus K. Wallop" because of the number of wallopings he administered.

TEACHERS IN THE DISTRICTS, 1886-1916

1886 saw the first Town School Board elected. They at once sought to hire Kensington natives who had experience and in the first years of the change secured Mrs. Rosa Akerman, Miss Sarah Abby Green, Miss Lizzie E. Titcomb. Mrs. Akerman had returned to Kensington after over 20 years teaching in Concord and Lexington Grammar schools, she being principal of the latter over 10 years. Beyond all doubt she was the most capable teacher the town has ever seen, male or female; but she found it too trying to her nerves and resigned after two terms.

Later excellent teachers among town girls were Sadie Chase, Mary A. Tilton, Lizzie E. Tuck, Anna Lamprey, Carrie Robie, Marion Hilliard, Mary Prescott, Mary Palmer, Elizabeth Sawyer, Mary Wilbur, Eunice Evans, Mrs. Georgiana Hodgdon et al. Two "masters" were hired at various times in this period, Jewett P. Sawasy and Herbert M. Prescott.

NOTES ON THE DISTRICT SYSTEM

In our Library is preserved a file of School Registers from 1853 to 1890, with some breaks. I find from examination of these that the North District averaged 51 pupils enrolled; average attendance was 44. The South District averaged an enrollment of 72, average attendance of 58. The highest enrollment of the whole town at any time was 153. I find some instances of boys attending in winter at the age of 19 and several instances of attendance at 18, while 17 years and 6 months was the average age of finishing the education of the boys. These large boys only attended in winter, they were too useful on the farms to be allowed in school at other times.

All teachers in their reports to the Committees lament IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE. If a boy was wanted to work he was taken out and often a parent would take him out if the teacher gave him a good licking or the parent did not like the teacher.

In 1890 pursuant to an act of the legislature the town began to buy text books for pupils and clean books displaced the old and worn books used till worn out as they passed from big brother and sister to younger brother and sister, or were sold from family to family. I traded a jack-knife for my first geography book with Bert Fellows, a larger boy.

A TYPICAL SCHOOL REPORT OF THE PERIOD

Rev. E. D. Eldridge was Superintending Committee many years; I quote from his first annual report, that of 1862.

District No. 1 (North Road)
31 boys and 24 girls registered, total 55
Total expense for the year, $206.70
Pay of male teacher $40 per month, including board
Pay of female teacher $21 per month, including board
Children under 4 years of age, two

District No. 2 (South Side of Town)
29 boys and 27 girls registered, total 56
Total expense of the year, $213.59
Pay of male teacher $30 including board
Pay of female teacher $25 including board
Children under 4 years of age, three

Cost of upkeep and repair of all school houses for the year, $50.00
Average cost of education per pupil, $4.07

Text Books used:
Readers, Town's Progressive Readers
Spelling, Town's Speller
Arithmetic, Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic
Colburn's National Arithmetic
Geography, Colton's
Grammar, Quackinboss
Algebra, Davis

Visits of Supt. Committeeman, 6 in District No. 1; 4 in District 2.

The average enrollment 1880-1885 was, North School 42; East School 32; West School 26. The expenses were about the same as 1862. The yearly schedule called for about 32 weeks of schooling, though some years it dropped to 26 weeks. The Spring term began in early April and ran to July 4th. The Fall term began the First Monday in September and ran to the week before Christmas. There was a short winter term in January and February, lasting according to the available money.

AN EVALUATION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL

The writer was one of the last group to go through the old district schools as they ran from 1798 to 1890 in town, though the change in the period 1890 to 1916 was slight.

As a pastor for 44 years he has observed the working of the "grade school system," and he has had six children educated in that system,

and it is his firm conviction that the "district system," in spite of the fact that it cost only 1-10 as much and provided only 3-4 as many weeks schooling, did in many ways furnish children a better education than they secure today. It drilled them day after day on a few subjects, sent them forth with a working knowledge of arithmetic, geography, history, spelling and grammar, which they do not secure today; and it sent them forth better penmen than they are today.

Under the district system pupils recited in classes that stood in line. The pupil failing dropped below and the pupil answering moved up. Thus the best scholar stood at the head of the class.

A poor scholar who stood at the foot a long time dropped into a lower class, while a good scholar who stood at the head a long time went into a higher class. This gave incentive to the bright lad or miss, and the shame stirred even slower and lazier pupils to work.

This is lost in the "grade" system, where pupils recite from their seats and if they have passing marks continue in their grade. Thus lazy pupils do just enough to keep in the "grade" and there is lack of incentive for the brighter pupil to work hard.

The Modern Period

In 1916 the town voted to enter the State Superintendent's Union No. 16. The following year to their bitter chagrin the State Board of Health came in and ordered improvements at the Brick School House that cost $500.00. Local criticism of its School Board and Supt. Brooks followed, but fortunately soon after Mr. Clifton A. Towle became Supt., and being a man of experience and tact he ironed out matters which have flowed on smoothly since. Under this period our boys and girls first entered Exeter or Amesbury or Kingston in the Eighth Grade, but have recently entered at the sixth grade.

This of course means a greatly added school expense upon the town over the old expenses of the District schools.

Building the Present School Houses

District No. 1

THE BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE 1842

The present brick school house was built in 1842. The old peaked roof building being moved off and turned into the dwelling house now occupied by Mr. Philbrick. I have found no official record of the building but Daniel Prescott chairman of the Building Committee, kept all his receipts, from which we note —

Work was widely distributed in the district — various parties starting hauling the brick in early March, with their oxen. Labor on the

cellar began in April. The last receipt dates Nov. 24, 1842, and is for door sill, door rock ($5.00), steps, etc. to John W. Shaw, evidently the finishing up work. Money was borrowed from John Nudd on note, $100; from Lydia Fogg, $200; from Harriet Sanborn, $50; from Ira Blake, amount not given. Men worked with a yoke of oxen for four shillings a day, 67 cents. Last indebtedness was paid April 1 1844, when Mrs. Fogg received $284.60 note and interest.

District No. 2

THE EAST AND WEST SCHOOL HOUSES, 1873

District No. 2 carried on its two schools in the houses built in 1798, one at the head of Trundle-Bed Lane and the other on South Road near the home of John Weare.

As early as 1850 attempts were made to re-locate the school houses. When the Civil War was over the buildings needed repair, and looked very shabby compared to the neat brick building on the North Road. In 1868 Samuel L. Lamprey, a Civil War Veteran, a man with considerable education and the town's best penman, being on the School Board wrote a most cutting report of the condition of the school houses with special reference to the toilet facilities of each, which was printed in the printed report and provoked much discussion.

May 1, 1873, a hot meeting in District No. 2, was held at the old building at Mace's Cr. It was voted to re-locate the schools, build two new buildings, to raise $300, and borrow not exceeding $1200. Stephen Brown, Rufus Eastman, Stephen Green were appointed committee to carry out the vote and locate the buildings. They selected the Roberts land, owned by James W. W. Brown, for the East, and land owned by Edgar A. Brown for the West location. Jonathan Badger, Daniel E. Palmer, Chas. Lovering, John G. Dow, Ebenezer Lovering, Benj. A. Fitts, James S. Austin, petitioned for a meeting to rescind the action. The meeting was held, but the former action was endorsed by a vote of 37 to 27. Stephen Brown immediately set at work before other action could be taken; the old buildings were moved away, their underpinning moved to the locations of East and West schools, and the buildings were soon up and ready for use in the Fall.

CHAPTER 13

KENSINGTON'S ECONOMIC HISTORY

HOW THE PEOPLE HAVE EARNED THEIR LIVING — THEIR FARMS, MILLS, HORSE-POWER, SHOPS, HOME INDUSTRIES, TANNING AND SHOE-MAKING, STORES

Political organization (Civic Affairs), Religious organization (Churches), Military activities (Soldiers), Educational efforts (Schools), these are the bony-frame of a community body, but the muscle-fibre and living organism that makes the skeleton a living thing, is found in the economic life.

The organized life by which the people work and live, their homes and industries, these are the really big things in the life of the community. As these are intelligently laid out, carried on by honest work, as the people thus become self-sufficient by faithful labor, only then do we have a true community life.

Kensington began well, built on the labors of a frugal, industrious, wise and eager people, it has through the years been a community that has borne the burden in the heat of the day, made its own living and paid all expenses and something more.

Kensington's Prosperous Farm-Life

For many years Kensington was a purely farming community, and as such grew by the time of the Revolution, to be a "populous and prosperous" town of 850 people. The farming of the early days consisted of growing those crops necessary for subsistence, such as wheat, buckwheat rye, corn, turnips, hay, and later potatoes; and the raising of the stock which provided further food, clothing, and patient labor-power. Kensington soil was adapted to produce in good quantity all these crops and the close proximity of the town to the salt marshes at Hampton Falls and Hampton made the raising of stock easy. Thus every farm had its one or more yokes of oxen, its several yokes of growing steers, a few cows, a flock of sheep and perhaps a horse or two. Each farmer cut several stacks of salt hay upon which he wintered the young and hungry stock. Thus Kensington was situated to raise stock at less expense than the towns inland.

A Few Skilled Carpenters, "Smiths" and Shoemakers

The first generations of settlers were almost entirely farmers. There were a few skilled carpenters and a carpenter in those days could do all kinds of work on wood. He took the boards as they came from the mill, made and fitted doors, windows, closets, panelling, and that they

did it well may be today seen if one visits the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts in New York City and sees there, kept intact, the panelling from the guest chamber in the old Shaw house on upper Stumpfield Road.

In addition Kensington had several blacksmiths. The blacksmith was a man very essential in the economy of the life of the settler. It also had several tanners and the records indicate it had local shoemakers who could make the footwear for the settlers from the tanned hides, rather than the same being done by the itinerant shoemaker who would come into the homes, remain a week making boots for the family, and then pass on to the next family.

Water Power Harnessed for Its Mills

The settlers of Kensington were, like the settlers in all New England towns, a self-reliant people. Each family was practically self-supporting. The people had few wants they did not themselves supply from their own labor and ingenuity. They raised all their own food, grew their clothing, dressed their own beef and tanned hides for their footwear. An occasional visit to the coast (Newburyport, Salisbury or Hampton) enabled them to bring back spices, implements of labor, powder and shot, and rum, which were all they needed beyond what they raised and made with their hands. Thus the Saw-Mill to provide shelter, the Grist-Mill to provide bread, the tannery to provide footwear, the Fulling-Mill for homespun cloth, were the four essential forms of economic production. Three of these demanded water power and no greater tribute can be paid to the resourcefulness of the settlers than this mute tribute which the records bear as to the way they seized upon every bit of water power in the town.

All three of the streams that are of considerable size as they flow through Hampton Falls have their start, as little trickling brooks, in Kensington. What Hampton Falls people have always called "The Fall's River" starts from the spring-fed little Muddy Pond and empties into the old "Falls" shipyard a half mile from where stood Hampton Falls depot. "Taylor River" starts in the springs on the original Green farm, now the home of Everett Palmer. "Grapevine Run Brook" starts in the spring at the edge of Hog Pen farm where John Fuller built the first white man's house in Kensington, flows through Hog Pen meadow to wind round to Hampton Falls.

Kensington also has two other streams one flowing through the Great Meadows to Exeter River and the other rising near the East Kingston line to flow into the Exeter River.

The Great Meadows stream flows through dead level land and could not be used for water power but the ingenious Kensington settler quickly harnessed the other poor, little, trickling streams and in his dams held back sufficient water each spring, or after any heavy rain, to saw his boards, grind his grist, bleach and prepare his homespun cloth.

Saw–Mills, Grist–Mills, Fulling–Mills

The Saw-Mill and the Grist-Mill were the first built and most essential mills. The people must be sheltered and fed. Some sawing of boards was done in the saw-pits, where two men could turn out one hundred boards a day by working from sunrise to sunset, but the streams were speedily harnessed and the " up-and-down " saw took over the labor from tired muscles and aching backs.

The ingenious settler quickly harnessed the same power to grind his rye, wheat and corn into meal and flour.

The first saw-mill was set up by Samuel Page between 1730 and 1737 on lower Beaver Dam Brook in the lot where now stands the home of Arthur Batchelder. Later a grist-mill was set up on the other side of the road. Further down-stream Joseph Pike, clothier and tailor, who was there in 1737, set up a fulling-mill. Between the Page Saw-Mill and the Pike Fulling-Mill, Robert Pike placed a dam and had the Pike Saw-Mill. Thus this slender stream at various times ran four mills.

In 1782 the Page family sold the mill-site to Capt. Joseph Hilliard, and Hilliard's untimely death sent the mill into the hands of the Lamprey family, then James Noyes Peveare, Aaron Wood, Josiah Locke successively owned the mills. The Locke family sold to Winkley, whose widow married Boardman. When Mrs. Boardman died the place went to her kin, the wife, and her sister, of William Gaddis of Amesbury. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bachelder, Mrs. Bachelder being the grand-daughter of Mrs. Gaddis.

The brook near East Kingston line was harnessed by Elisha Blake and the Blake saw-mill ran there for years.

The stream that flows out of Hog Pen Meadow was first harnessed by the Shaw family that lived near Brick School House and a saw-mill built there. A good half mile further down where the stream entered the land of the Jonathan Fellows farm another dam was built and a grist-mill with large outside wheel after the fashion of the one on Henry Ford's Wayside Inn estate was built and run by the Fellows family. The outside wheel was 16 feet in diameter, the grist stones had a four foot face and 7 bushels of corn could be ground with one pond of water. The mill was last run by Moses James about 1845 or 1850. The pond was the favorite spot for baptisms of converts in the " Chris-

tian" movement 1810 to 1850. Harriet Livermore was baptized there around 1825.

The site of the Shaw saw-mill was put into use by Joseph Poor in 1853 when he bought a saw-mill of Aaron Prescott of Hampton Falls, the Grant Sanborn farm, and moved it there. The mill ran till after 1890 when it ceased to be used and a few years later was taken down by Frank Poor.

The only fulling-mill in town was that of Joseph Pike before 1732 on the farm of Ralph Fish, as mentioned above.

Horse-Power in Tread-Mill and on the Sweep

When I was a lad around 1885 a dozen farms had the old cider-mill where a single horse attached to a sweep went round and round to grind the apples.

Also certain farmers had the "two-horse" tread-mill where a pair of patient horses walked up and up on the incline, hour after hour, furnishing power to thrash oats, barley, wheat and rye.

The partridges and other birds scattered apple-seeds over the hills and pastures; no need of an "Apple-Seed Johnie" of Ohio to plant apples here and there was an abundance of "natural fruit" till the advent of the Gipsy and Brown Tail moth around 1915.

The quantities of natural fruit, with the early and smaller apples, were ground into cider. Woodbridge Hobbs once hauled to Newburyport with oxen, for Weare Nudd, during the fall, 100 barrels of cider, which was sold and delivered for one dollar per barrel. After filling the contract the party buying the cider asked Mr. Nudd if he would be willing to furnish barrels, and fill them and haul him 100 barrels of water for the same sum, and Mr. Nudd replied in the negative. As late as following the Civil War there were 22 cider-mills in town.

Vinegar thus made was a most essential article in the early homes and was used in pickling many choice bits of winter food, thus turning the small and poor apples into good use; but sad to say, the far greater portion of the product was used as an alcoholic drink, which brought much misery and suffering to the women and children, for an habitual cider-drinker was a very disagreeable and ugly man.

A dollar would buy 25 pounds of beef or veal, or a barrel of cider. A man and four oxen would work a day for $1.50. The travelling or local shoemaker would make a pair of boots from leather furnished from the home tannery, for 33 cents, and would tap a pair for 20 cents.

Shops

Jonathan Prescott was a blacksmith and had his shop on his farm in lower Drinkwater near where stood one of the earliest small school houses. Elisha Purington, pioneer settler on Horse Hill Road, was a blacksmith and had a shop on his farm near where stood the South Road School House. He also built a shop near the Meeting House which was later sold to Joshua Batchelder and later to Nathaniel Healey with 2½ acres of land, who Nov. 10, 1758, sold the same to John Fifield, a blacksmith from Kingston. July 12, 1759, Fifield sold the property to John Blake who moved the buildings and built a new house and ran a tavern. The blacksmith shop was opened again by Jeremiah Fellows, who bought the property from Jacob Worthen who had married John Blake's widow. Deacon Fellows not only did blacksmith work, but he was a clock maker and at one time made the works for clocks while Ebenezer Clifford made the cases in his cabinet shop at Exeter. Those clocks which were made by Fellows and Clifford are of the finest workmanship to be found among the early clock makers; Mrs. Daniel Gilman found one, had it cleaned, and sold it for $1000 in 1927. The Fellows Shop then used by Joseph Poor was burned a day or two before Christmas in 1876.

A John Gilman had a blacksmith shop on Red Oak Ridge around 1760.

David Stewart before the Revolution had a blacksmith shop and owned an acre of land near Eastman's corner, but in 1778 he sold this to Reuben Swain, another blacksmith, and bought first a part, and later all, the Timothy Blake Locke farm in the center of the town, (now the Esther Blake Warner property) and carried on for several years.

George A. Chase was a blacksmith on the old Stage Road and at his death his shop was bought and moved to the Main Road on the Green farm, where George W. Green worked for several years. After Green moved to Exeter Al Stevens ran the shop a while, then he opened a shop on upper Stumpfield and John Tilton moved into the Green shop.

The last three blacksmiths in town, Al Stevens, Frank Strout, and Howard M. Towle, gave up their work one by one. Stevens gave up around 1920 and Strout laid down his hammer in 1936, and Towle has gradually turned to woodwork; the coming of the automobile practically killing business for the old blacksmiths. Stevens opened a shop in this town not long after 1880; Towle opened in 1895; Strout around 1905.

Jonathan Badger on the South Road had a blacksmith shop before and during the Civil War and Sidney Chase had a shop at the Flanders-

Badger farm on the Main Road. Following the Civil War, Jonathan Badger devoted his time to making ship rings for the Newburyport Shipyards. Hyla Peacock learned to do the same from Mr. Badger, bought Paul Ordway's small shoe shop, moved it to his home and made ship rings.

In earlier days there were four carpenter shops in town, perhaps more. Ebenezer Clifford had one on Exeter Lane, where Mr. Colby now lives; Illsley and George Page had one in the fork where the road goes to Salisbury; John Page had one on his farm; and opposite the home of Jeremiah Sanborn on North Road, Josiah Sanborn and Dearborn Blake had a shop of considerable size.

William Gaddis, an Englishman, came into town about 1885, living in the home on Boardman's Brook, and for many years made soap there. John Davis for many years made baskets at his home on the road running from the East School. It was his boast that he could make a basket that would hold water; whether that be true or not few men could make so strong and durable a basket, and there are still in town some of Davis's baskets, made over 50 years ago and in constant use since.

John French who invented and made the all-metal plow built a long shop on his farm in which he turned out 200 plows a year. The French plow was a great improvement over the plows it superseded. In the days when there were no small iron foundries they had to be made of wrought iron. John French made his first plows in Concord when a youth, trading his first three for a watch, which he sold for five dollars. He then started for Pittsburgh, Pa., on foot, found no encouragement, and after tramping seven hundred miles landed in Concord again. Here he again began to make plows, took an apprentice, Timothy R. Shaw, to whom he later sold out and returned to Kensington. Here he achieved a pronounced success and nearly every New Hampshire farm was proud to show its John French plow.

The Shops of the Shoemakers

("The Gentle Craft of Leather," Tanners, Cordwainers, Boot and Shoe Makers)

In May, 1663, Thomas Parker, shoemaker from England, came to Hampton. He taught his trade to others, and wandering shoemakers yearly visited various families and from home-tanned cow-hides made up cow-hide boots for the family to last a year. Samuel Tuck, Caleb Hodgdon and James Sanborn were local shoemakers who made boots for townspeople who brought the cow-hide to their homes.

Old Kensington had an exceptionally large number of "tanners." At first the ingenious settler tanned the hides for himself, but men with a special knack for doing the work soon developed a specialty and were known as tanners. They dug and stoned tan pits about as one would dig a well. Ground hemlock and oak bark with a horse and stone wheel, and pickled their hides for a year or two years in the pit till they were ready for use by the travelling or local boot maker. In old deeds and records a great many men in Kensington are described as Cordwainers, the old term for men who worked on boots and shoes.

In 1822, John T. Blake a lad of sixteen, went to Newburyport and took the stage into Boston where he learned the trade of making boots. In 1829, his brother Philomen having died, he took over the old Timothy Blake Locke Shop, enlarged the same, and started the manufacture of boots.

Boots were then called "Fine" and "Coarse" boots. The fine boots were of calfskin, the coarse boots of cow-hide. The soles were put on with wooden pegs.

The method of manufacture was to cut the upper of the boot in two equal sides. They were then sewed together or "closed in" by hand with an awl, hog's bristles and waxed end. While sewing the sides were held and clamps were held between the knees. Though "closing in" was hard work, it was frequently done by women. The tools in use were the new clamps, the "closer," or whipper, which pressed down the rough edge of the seam, a shoe knife to be used in trimming, the closing awl, a bunch of bristles, a ball of thread, a ball of wax, and a piece of soap into which the awl would be thrust for greasing. Later came "pumps" or short legged shoes for men and women. These were made from quick-tan calfskin or sheepskin. There was also a low cut shoe called the Irish brogan and made of cow-hide which became very popular during the Civil War and was worn by the soldiers. The light sheepskin pumps were called "dancing pumps," and used in the old square dances.

A few years later Charles and Timothy Hilliard on the North Road built their shop (later bought and used as a home by Abraham Hilton on the South Road) and began the manufacture of boots in the same way as Blake. Later Francis Hilliard built an addition to his mother's home and began the manufacture of boots.

Elias Howe invented the sewing machine in 1846, and by its use it was possible to make turned shoes for men and women. Ira Newell Blake of Drinkwater Road built a shop on his father's farm and began the manufacture of women's turned shoes which he continued till 1886, when he sold the shop and went to Pittsfield, N. H. and engaged in

the same work in a larger way. Ferdinand L. Blake in a small way also manufactured the "congress" and "side lace" shoes being made at the time.

Some men took pegged work from Lynn and made it up in their homes on their peg benches.

Business in those days was on a precarious basis. There was no system of credits and banking, goods were sold on notes, and both Blake and Hilliard failed in the late 50's. Blake tanned much of his own leather, as did Hilliard. After ceasing to make boots, Hilliard ran two tan pits, and Mark Wadleigh who worked in his tan pits records tanning 1400 calf skins in one year.

Kensington boot making was so prosperous in 1835 that a Salisbury skipper recorded in his diary, "Kensington is the place to buy either fine or coarse boots." Blake had about forty men and women in his employ and Charles Hilliard from fifteen to twenty.

THE "TURNED WORK" ERA

Before 1860, Lynn, Newburyport, and Haverhill had many shoe manufacturers who were sending work into the country towns to be made up. There business grew rapidly during the Civil War and when the war was ended the returning soldier, who had nothing else to do, could take out a case of shoes from Lynn, Newburyport, or Haverhill, and work as long and hard as he desired. The pay was pathetically small. From 8 cents to 20 cents per pair. A case of shoes was 60 pair with "samples" coming in twelve and twenty-four pair lots. Workers could make from forty to eighty cents per day. Some active men working in teams, could make from eighty cents to one dollar per day. In 1868, one-sixth of all shoes made in the nation were made in the Massachusetts cities north of Boston.

In 1885-1886, the Winter I learned to sew shoes, there were one hundred men and eight women in town who were making turned shoes. In addition, several shoemakers had their boys and girls, like myself, learning to sew. There were twenty-two small shoe shops in the town, the old Blake shop, where I learned to sew, and where various men worked from time to time, and some of the people worked in a room fitted up in their homes.

Work was brought from Haverhill largely by Newt Austin and John Lewis Chase; a few men with teams got their own work; George Goodwin of Hampton Falls brought work from Newburyport to a couple of work-men.

I recently came into possession of some of the Account Books of Newt Austin, and went over the figures of some thirty work men to

whom he brought shoes in 1880 to 1882. I found the pay to run from forty-five dollars in a year, in the case of an old man like Mr. Mitchell, to $220 in a year paid Jimmy Austin, who had bought a sewing machine and was doing a large amount of work. The average amount earned was about $125 per year. The town's two best workmen, James Rollins and my father, Stephen Sawyer, worked on samples for which they received from a shilling to 25 cents per pair, but their average pay was about the same as the others for it took longer to make a pair of samples.

Few of the shoemakers worked all the time on their shoes; during planting time many of them worked for the farmers, receiving one dollar per day. In hoeing time they would get in a few days' work, receiving $1.25 per day, and in haying all able-bodied men could receive work, getting $1.50 a day. Some would also get work on the marsh.

These shoemakers had their little gardens, raised some of their vegetables, kept a little flock of hens, and a pig in many instances, but none of them went on relief or asked town aid unless there was serious sickness. Men who chafed at indoor work could vary their work on shoes with general work on the farms in the open months for which they received one dollar a day, or in the winter months chopping wood for which they received 75 cents a cord for pine wood and one dollar a cord for hard wood.

In the days before the modern daily paper every shop was a gathering place for men to spend their leisure or an evening and discuss politics and religion, exchange bits of news, and swap opinions about the best way to do the work the townspeople were doing.

The carefully kept Account Book of Deacon Jere Fellows, now owned by his grandson, Frank Poor, shows how much of a social center his blacksmith shop was. All the more so in this case because his tavern was only 30 yards away. His patrons were the leading men of the town, who came there for an afternoon of social life mixed with business; resorting to the tavern to discuss religion and politics, while the oxen were being shod. I record the names of those sturdy men who on certain dates were charged with shoeing of oxen and their glasses of "flip" and "grog": Capt. Philemon Blake, Capt. Joseph Prescott, Capt. Nathaniel Gove, Lieut. Samuel Prescott, Lieut. Nathaniel Weare, Lieut. Jacob Worthen, Major John Lane, Capt. Eliphalet Hale, Major Nathaniel Healey, Major Jere Fogg, Capt. Joseph Hilliard. At least three professional men patronized the blacksmith shop and tavern bar; they were Doctors Joseph Osgood, B. F. Rowe, and Cyrus Dearborn.

Home Industries

The settler in New England brought into existence a new age for the human race namely "the wood age." We have had previously, "the Stone Age," the "Bronze Age," the "Iron Age," and so forth. And New England brought in the "Wood Age." The large, smooth white pine logs produced soft, easily-workable wood, and New England ingenuity soon learned to meet the needs of the people by work in wood. Thus our people produced a home industry and nearly every farm had its corner and bench and tools where on rainy days and during the winter season men turned out yokes for their oxen, bows for cows, sheep, and geese, sleds and wagons for their teams.

But the men were not alone in linking industry with farm work; in the home the women were carding, spinning and weaving flax and wool into cloth. They were also braiding rags into mats and straw into hats. And in proper season they canned berries and vegetables and in the Fall dried pumpkin and other ingathered harvests. They made the feathers of the fowl into bedding, the fleece of sheep into warm clothing for New Hampshire winter.

Kensington Stores

The store is a part of the economic life of a community. It is the distributing center of economic goods. The store-keeper is the distributing agent between producer and consumer, and takes his living in profit or commission from what flows through his hands. The breakdown in the economic prophecy of Karl Marx came when he failed to see that in the future before him, the distributing agents would be big affairs and employ a lot of people, whose economic interest would be more with the employer than with the proletariat worker.

The first store of which I find trace was kept by Daniel Blake, on Red Oak Ridge in 1752. Timothy Blake Locke is also described as "tanner and trader" and having a store at his home around 1765. Widow Johnson kept a store many years at the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Prescott (the late Francis Hilliard). Widow Fogg kept a store in the old parsonage for many years starting around 1800, as did Dr. Osgood, around 1830. On the South Road a store was kept on the opposite corner from where stood the school house by various parties: Robert Titcomb, Jonathan Badger, Thompson and Clark, and Jonathan Palmer, all kept the store at various times.

The Lockes had a store at the old Page mill-site, from just before 1800 to some years later.

Philemon Blake opened a store in the former Timothy Blake Locke Shop in 1826 which was taken over by John T. Blake after his death.

That store is still running and has ever been run since then by various members of the Blake family: Newell, Thomas, George, Mary Esther, and now Esther Blake Warner, grand-daughter of John T. Blake.

George W. Walton around 1852 hired the lower part of the Francis Hilliard addition to his mother's home and opened a store there. In 1867 Francis Hilliard received appointment as Postmaster and ran the Post Office and store many years. The Post Office was removed to the Blake store in 1886 following the election of Cleveland as President. In 1890 with the election of Harrison, Mr. Hilliard could have received back the Post Office, but declined and George W. Walton then living across the road, bought the Jere Tilton shoe shop, moved it there, and kept the Post Office until 1894, when with Cleveland's re-election the Post Office went back to the Blake store with Mrs. Mary Esther Warner as Postmistress. While being refitted the old Blake shop caught fire in February, 1894 and burned. Mrs. Warner immediately built the new building where her daughter keeps the store.

In 1889 Herbert M. Prescott received the appointment as Postmaster, hired the old Francis Hilliard store, and was storekeeper and Postmaster till we lost our daily stage and the R. F. D. brought us our mail.

In recent years, with the advent of the automobile, several persons in different sections of the town have opened gas stations and carry in connection therewith tobacco, candy, tonic, beers, and small stocks of groceries, viz., Mrs. Bragg, "Dutchy" Robinson and Mrs. Wilbur.

The United States Mail

Before 1796 our people must have had any mail come to Hampton or Exeter, the first stage bringing mail came through that year and it was left or taken at Locke's Store. When Oliver Locke opened his tavern in 1826 mail was changed there till the new road to Exeter was put through in 1838, when Col. Blake's store became the Post Office.

After the Civil War Francis Hilliard, who kept store, was appointed post-master and held the position till Cleveland's election in 1884 and in Jan. 1886, George Blake was appointed post-master. In 1890 George W. Walton was appointed post-master.

After Cleveland's second election, Mary Esther Warner was appointed post-mistress in 1894 and served five years when Herbert M. Prescott was appointed, and he kept the post office in the former Hilliard store.

The earlier stages bringing mail ran from Newburyport to Exeter. Soon after the Civil War the route was shortened to be from Exeter to Amesbury. In 1901 it became a Star Route, running over from Exeter twice a day and delivering the mail to the homes. In 1909 the R. F. D. service came into town, covering the entire town in a few months.

The last stage driver to Amesbury was a Mr. French, and Harry Prescott was the Star Route driver.

The earliest mail rates were as follows:

Single sheet letter not over 40 miles, half a shilling (8 cts.).
Over 40 miles but not over 90 miles, 10 cents.
Over 90 but not over 150 miles, 12½ cents.
Over 150 but not over 500 miles, 20 cents.
Over 500 miles, a quarter.

Two sheets of paper double these rates, 3 sheets of paper, triple the rates. Letters going by vessel were taken and delivered at the nearest vessel for 6 cents, plus the ship rates to destination.

BEAUTY SHOP

Always eager to keep up with the times, Kensington this year saw that most modern type of shop opened, "The Beauty Shop." Miss Martha E. Card turned the old Chase-Green blacksmith shop into a neat and entirely modern Beauty parlor to which she has given the name "THE FRIENDLY BEAUTY SHOP."

WATERING TROUGHS

An institution of great value in the older days of oxen and horses was the "Watering Trough" or "Watering Brook." Here the farmers could count on watering ox or horse. Farmers who had running water for a trough were paid $2.00 yearly for maintaining the same. John French maintained a trough for years. Brooks through which one could drive were "Saw-Mill Brook," "Green's Brook," "Locke-Boardman Brook," all on the Main Road.

CHAPTER 14

ROADS IN TOWN — EARLIER AND LATER ROADS — HIGHWAY DISTRICTS — ABANDONED ROADS — THE RECORDS OF SURVEYS — WAGES FOR ROAD WORK, ETC.

The road is one of the oldest institutions of civilized life. A way for easy travel from house to house and village to village is the first necessity of any community life. The Old Testament and New Testament are full of references to "roads" and "ways" and so in the earliest secular writing.

The Indians with their crude civilization in New England made their trails over which in Indian file they travelled.

For a time the white men followed these Indian trails but the time came when they wanted real cart paths over which their oxen could haul the dead-axe wagon.

HORSE HILL (SOUTH ROAD)

This starts from Hampton Falls line below Leavitt Brown's home and runs to East Kingston line on upper Clifford Ridge. It was an Indian trail from Kingston Pond to Hampton River and the white men used it. It went along the side of Horse Hill as the old path above Frank Poor's slate-roofed house will show. It is the oldest used way in town. As Kingston plantation was laid out in 1669, though not actually taken up till later, it saw considerable early use.

HOG PEN - STUMPFIELD ROAD (MIDDLE ROAD)

The Hampton Town Meeting of March 1663 which gave Mr. Cotton Hog-Pen Farm and laid out land for a new Plantation at Kingston, ordered to be built a new road from Hampton to Kingston via Hog-Pen. (See Hampton Town Book; Brown's HISTORY OF HAMPTON FALLS, Vol. I, page 367; Miss Mary J. Green's articles in NEWS-LETTER.)

This road turned from Hampton road to Salisbury to come to Hog-Pen, now "the city," then swung left over Gove's Hill to East Kingston line. The lower part was called Hog Pen Road and the upper part was called Stumpfield.

DRINKWATER - RED OAK RIDGE ROAD (NORTH ROAD)

This came into town from Drinkwater Road in Hampton Falls at the four corners below the farm of the late Levi Sanborn, and continued on to the Brick School and then up by George Weare's home over the ridge, now called Moulton Ridge but then called Red Oak Ridge.

Rev. Mr. Whipple in 1732, speaks of that section of his parish between Hampton Falls line, at Frying Pan Four Corners, and Kingston line, as "The Drinkwater Section." The selectmen of Hampton Falls in their survey submitted to the March Meeting of 1734, called the entire road from Grapevine Run to Kingston line, "The Drinkwater Road." Whether the section was first called "Drinkwater" and the road took its name because it went through the section, or whether the road was first named "Drinkwater" and the section took its name from the road, I am unable to ascertain.

The traditional origin is that a "ciderer" walked all the way from Grapevine Run to Kingston line asking a drink of cider, and was everywhere refused, and that in exasperation he named the road by the title which has clung to it.

The above three were the original roads running from Hampton (the old plantation) to Kingston (the new plantation). A map of the same as drawn by Samuel Palmer, Jr. is found, pages 889-891, Vol. 24, N. H. State Papers.

EXETER LANE

This was the "way" laid out by the Hampton Falls selectmen, as per the return of Feb. 20, 1734 (see Vol. 25, N. H. Province Papers, page 430). The way ran along the east side of the Ninth Range of lots in the First West Division, laid out in 1702. Eleven families were living on this road in 1732. It ran from Prescott's Cr. to Exeter line.

THE TILTON-KINGSTON ROAD

This was a Fourth Road from Hampton Falls to Kingston and ran parallel with the Drinkwater-Red Oak Ridge Road but further north.

Joseph, Sherburne and John Tilton owned over 200 acres of land which made up the present farm of Arthur A. Colby, and the present farm of Frank Poor where the big elm is, and the present farm of Elmer Brewer. For their mutual benefit they had a private road running from Exeter Lane to the Brewer farm. The Selectmen of Hampton Falls in late 1733 continued, from the Brewer place, a public road to Kingston over what is at present Shaw's Hill and York's Hill to Kingston line. The town laid out the road from Tilton's to Prescott's corner as a public road in 1744, after that the road from Tilton's to Exeter Lane was little used, and the road from Brick School Cr. via Shaw's Hill to Kingston became a part of the North Road.

The Land Division and Private "Ways"

The land divisions of 1702, 1708 and 1714, left a space between ranges of lots to be used as roads. A section 1½ rods wide was thus left between each two ranges of lots. The settlers used these as cart paths, and sometimes they traded a piece across their own land for the lot left because it better suited their needs.

The settlers built on hill tops because the great forests of trees would dry out on the hills after cutting and allow immediate planting of their crops. Thus the first homes were on hill tops or hill sides, and private ways, entered through gates, connected farm with farm and home with home.

Some of these ways were very useful and were improved by the users and later became regular roads.

Other of these ways were never public ways, but remained cart-paths to 1890.

The Early Roads Ordered by Parish Vote

Once the Meeting House was built and in use February 1734, then it must be made accessible to all so when the town was made a Parish in 1737 it began at once to take town action on laying out "open ways" or "highways" crossing from South, Middle and North roads to one another or connecting groups of homes with some road leading to the Meeting House.

"YE OLDE DOW ROAD," June 9, 1737

Sept. 9, pursuant to the petition of Ezekiel Dow, John Graves, George Connor, Isaac Fellows, who lived on the cart path from Theophilus Page's corner to Elihu Chase's and also signed by John Dow and Jonathan Palmer whose Horse Hill farms extended through to it, a road was ordered built along the existing cart-path from the Page corner to land of Noah Ward, and instructions were, "Keep to the cart-path as it now goeth."

That cart-path turned off to the left coming toward the Meeting House and went down by the big rock in the berry pasture of the late John Chase and a good substantial path it was in 1890. The path came out at the home of Elihu Chase and connected with his lane to the Meeting House. The road was ordered re-located to its present location, March 1763.

"RED OAK RIDGE ROAD," Nov. 8, 1737

A special meeting of Nov. 8, laid out an open highway over Red Oak Ridge through lands of James Sanborn and Timothy Hutchins,

after they had in the public meeting signed an agreement. This bit of road was evidently to make straight and better the way laid out by the Hampton Falls selectmen in 1732.

There was another re-location of the 1732 Red Oak Ridge Road on May 15, 1749 to accommodate Moses Blake, Jr. and Jonathan Pulsipher, then living there. Since 1749 it has remained as at present.

"THE WARD ROAD," Dec. 8, 1739

Pursuant to a petition of the Selectmen for 1738, viz., John Prescott, Joseph Wadleigh, Ebenezer Brown and Jonathan Dow, a special meeting was held to lay out an open highway from the east side of Noah Ward's land to the south end of Hog-Pen farm; "to run North and join the highway at the south end of Hog-Pen Farm."

This road ran from the Ward place (Walton farm of 1885) down to the present home of Percy M. Dunn, crossed the road and ran up the hill into Peveare Lane near the Main Road. Through the bars Joseph Hilliard turned his cows to pasture in 1885. The road was laid out and the town allowed 4 lbs. and 10 shillings damage to land.

HOG PEN EXTENSION TO THE MEETING HOUSE

Hog Pen Road ran to Kingston, after passing the Green home turning up Peveare Lane to Stumpfield to Kingston. April 13, 1739, John Bachelder, Abraham Moulton and Wadley Cram were chosen to lay out an extension from the entrance of Peveare Lane to the Meeting House, through land of Obadiah Johnson and Jeremiah Green.

Another meeting was held May 21, and their report accepted and the road ordered. June 29, 1739, Jeremiah Green deeded a strip 65 rods long and 1½ rods wide to the Parish for a road, he to have privilege of putting up one gate and no more. Green's private path wound around the foot of the hill, opposite Mrs. Bragg's home to Elihu Chase's, following the higher ground. The Selectmen's account shows the Parish paid Johnson 24 lbs., 5 shillings, 4 pence and Green was paid 10 lbs.

ROUND HILL ROAD, 1739

This year the Parish paid Deacon Abraham Moulton 42 pounds for land from which to build the Round Hill Road. Deacon Moulton then lived opposite the Tom Gadd shoe shop. The run was to go by his house, toward John Prescott's corner, following the cart path as it formerly went, turning under the side of the great hill, leaving the old cart path following a way newly cleared out till it come to the southeast corner of the hill, thence over the causeway following the cart path as it now goeth until it meets the Meeting House land. The distance 200 rods and 1½ rods wide.

HOG-PEN LANE

Elihu Chase had a private lane running from his house to the Meeting House Road from Hampton. It ran through his own land and through land of Thomas Knowlton, whose house stood on the land of Mr. Miller. This year Chase was paid 8 pounds and Knowlton was paid 7 pounds and the road made a public way. It was still a good road between 1885-1890 when I used to go gunning over it. Besides the home of Knowlton upon it there was the home of Moses Blake, Jr. upon it, and possibly John Chapman.

TRUNDLE-BED LANE

Hog-Pen Lane was a private road of Elihu Chase's, and the March meeting of 1739 voted to lay out a public way over the land of Obadiah Johnson, and voted to pay him damages. This road had a log-corduroy section over the meadow, and was never satisfactory, and Hog-Pen Lane was used by preference.

Nov. 28, 1766, the town held a meeting to have the road laid out wider and better, and it was done. Two rods wide from the West corner bound between Elihu Chase and Obadiah Johnson, 146 rods, 2389 feet, running North 54 degrees East. An additional 12 pounds damage was paid the Johnson family. That road was the present road from Mace's Corner to the "city."

PEVEARE LANE, 1740

1740 also saw accepted as a public way, the road from Hog Pen Road at Green's farm with Elihu Chase's corner. This was the road called many years "The Peveare Lane."

THE HARDY-LOVERING ROAD, 1740

John Hardy (Herdie) was an early settler in town in the First West Division and had a private road running out upon Horse Hill Road near The Queen's Bridge. He later sold to Ebenezer Lovering, who built the large house in which Mr. Bartlett now lives. In 1740, a petition was presented to make this a public way. The Petition was signed by Ezekiel Dow, Philip Dow, John Hardy, Nehimiah Brown, Steven Brown, Nathan Clough, Noah Ward and John Davis. The petition was granted and the road laid out at a special meeting on Feb. 18, 1740.

EBENEZER DOW ROAD, 1741

The only road item noted in 1741 records is the hire of a hiway from Ebenezer Dow for 10 shillings.

EXETER LANE AND TILTON ROAD LAID OUT AN OPEN ROAD, 1744

This year Exeter Lane, on which 11 families were living in 1732, and the Tilton Road, were accepted as "Open Hi-ways." The Selectmen of Hampton Falls in 1733 and laid out from Tilton's farm to Kingston, and also had laid out the Exeter Lane at the same time. Now the town in meeting took action.

The vote in re the Tilton Road is recorded thus: "Voted to accept as an 'open way' the road between Jonathan Prescott's new house (now occupied by Dr. Rounsefell) and John Tilton's."

EXETER LANE WIDENED, 1745

Feb. 11, 1745, "Voted to widen the road from Jonathan Prescott's hill to Joseph Tilton's (now Arthur A. Colby's)."

DEARBORN - DOW ROAD, 1748

The road from the Dearborn place (Bodwell's) to Philip Dow's (Hallowell's) was accepted this year.

CLIFFORD RIDGE EXTENSION, 1748

Aug. 15, 1748, "Voted to extend and improve the open hi-way from Samuel Clifford's house to Kingston line."

SOUTH ROAD WIDENED, 1749

Feb. 15, 1749 "Voted to widen and improve the road from Ensign Nathan Clough's to Page's Corner."

THE 1755 ROAD STRUGGLES

There are not sufficient records to make clear what occured this year. There were two bills over roads that went to settlement by lawyers; one a bill presented by Joseph Pike, and one in re a road at Popple Plain on the Ebenezer Weare estate — it was an active year and the Town paid through its Selectmen its greatest bills. Deacon Moulton received 150 pounds, Elihu Chase 37 pounds, Capt. Page 45 pounds, Jeremiah Eastman 50 pounds, Obadiah Johnson 25, Thomas Knowlton 21, Jeremiah Green 30, Ezekiel Worthen 35, Philip Griffin 19, Moses Cass, Josiah Bachelder small amounts. There were petitions and counter petitions.

1761, THE PEAK ROAD. This is the short piece of road that ran by John Weare's house, now the home of Harry Greenwood. It was ordered built in 1759 but not done till the summer of 1761. It ran to the Peak in Salisbury, now South Hampton, hence its name.

1795, came a special meeting in May over the Dearborn Road. The petitioners were Eliphalet Webster, Jeremy Webster, David Tilton, Stevens Sanborn, Nathan Brown, Samuel Woodman, Abel Brown, Philip Tilton, Benj. Dearborn, Jonathan Palmer, Stephen Brown, Joseph Weare, Timothy Morrill, James Buswell, Jeremiah Beede, Benj. Magoon, Simon Magoon, Nathaniel Gordon, Benj. Graves, Joseph Lovering, Benj. Gordon, Jeremiah Dearborn, Moses Shaw, Samuel Dearborn, Simon Rowe, Asa Shaw, Asa Dearborn, Edward Locke, Abraham Shaw, Nathan Shaw, Mesheck Blake, Elisha Blake, Jr., Nathaniel Weare, Samuel French, Jonathan Webster.

The Dearborns were a politically active family and secured signers from East Kingston and Exeter and took the matter to court and succeeded in having the road built in spite of town opposition. It had been voted to be built years before but little work had been done upon it.

1796, THE STAGE ROAD. This road was built from Lamprey's Corner to Tuck's Corner at Drinkwater Road. In the description of those days it is called the road from Robert Dow's house to Newell Healey's Gate. The road was built for use especially by the new stage route from Newburyport to Concord. The Petition had a total of 101 signers. An excellent map is preserved. In 1880 it was still called the "old stage road."

1796, November, 32 signers asked a road from the Meeting House to the Northwest part of the town, to start at the East end of the Meeting House and meet the North Road near the house of Lieut. Parker Morgan, who then lived where Herbert M. Prescott now lives. The petition was put off and put off until 1833 when it was built.

Roads After 1800

1804, SOUTH HAMPTON ROAD. This was the short stretch which became the "New Road" to Amesbury. It ran from Benja Brown's corner, now the corner by the home of Charles Eastman, out by the home of Howard T. Outwater to South Hampton line.

1810, Samuel Dearborn tried for a new road from East Kingston down to his house.

1820, KIMBALL ROAD to Exeter over Col. Batchelder's Hill. Prior to that only a rough path closed by a gate. Col. Batchelder and his wife are buried by his request in his field, now Frank Kimball's pasture.

1820, NEW ROAD from Deacon Moulton's on Moulton Ridge to the Meadow Road.

1823, SKUNK ROAD. This was the section above the Lovering House (now Mr. Bartlett's) to Tappan's Corner. The Selectmen de-

scribe it as from Theodore Lovering's to the heirs of James Tappan. It was called Skunk Road.

1823, March, 3, Selectmen's favorable report on a road to run from Theodore Lovering's to the heirs of James Tappan at East Kingston line (Tappan's Cr.).

Feb. 18, 1824, Selectmen reported in favor of a new road from the foot of Ridge Hill, west of Weare Nudd's and east of John Nudd's to the Northwest corner of Joseph Prescott's barn, thence to highway by house of Noah Hobbs.

Nothing was done then and in 1826 it was tried again and with success.

1825, The NEW ROAD across Great Meadows was built. A straight road replacing the old winding road. Elijah Shaw was the agent to build.

April 8, 1826, special meeting to act on petition of Benjamin Dow and 46 others to make wider the " Peak " Road.

1830, EXETER LANE widened and made straighter as at present.

DEARBORN " SPITE " ROAD, 1830

The Dearborn family (present Bodwell farm) had much dealings in East Kingston. Samuel Dearborn, who died 1847, age 81, had a violent quarrel with East Kingston people between 1825 and 1830, and he wanted a road to go to Exeter without the necessity of going through East Kingston. The town refused to vote the road and he went to the county.

His son was active in politics and helped his father win out in the courts and the road was ordered built by the County Commission.

MEETING HOUSE HILL ROAD, 1831-1833

A private way ran from the present Brick School corner to the Meeting House and some work was done on it in the fall of 1831, and agitation for a public road started. The following is a bill charged against the town for work on one of the fall days. That work on the roads was not entirely unpleasant to the men can be seen by the items in the bill. Evidently there was no appropriation and the work in 1831 did not go far.

BILL FOR LABOR AND EXPENSE, NOV. 26 1831

(Meeting House Hill Road)

Town to John T. Blake, Dr.

1 qt. gin 14 cents and 1 gal. rum 42 cents	.56
2 qts. St. Croix rum at 50 cts., 3 lbs. salt fish 9	.59

50 crackers 25 cents, 5 lbs. salt fish 16 cts.	.41
1 qt. St. Croix rum 25 cts., sundries 30 cents	.55
2 qts. St. Croix rum 50 cents, 24 crackers 12 cents	.62
3 qts. St. Croix rum	.75
1 qt. new rum 11 cents, 50 crackers 25	.36
4 lbs. salt fish 12, cheese 18	.30
1 qt. St. Croix rum 25, 1 qt. new rum 11	.36
Sundries	.25
	$4.75

Voted payment Feb. 1832.

Oct. 13, 1832, the following citizens signed a petition for a road from the Congregational Meeting House to the North Road school house:

John W. Shaw	Stephen Dearborn	Ezra Chase
John French	Stephen Hook	Amos Gove
Benj. Moulton	Henry F. Brown	Caleb Brown
Phineas Felch	John S. Long	Samuel Lamprey
Tyler S. Tilton	Weare Nudd	Stephen Brown
Maurice Kimball	Benj. Prescott, Jr.	Jeremiah Poor
Charles Hilliard	Benj. Prescott	Smith Lamprey
Timothy Hilliard	David Prescott	Nath'l Eastman
James Fuller	John Tilton	Ezekiel Worthen
Stephen Kimball	John Tilton, Jr.	Charles Spalding
Jonathan Tilton	Jeremiah Sanborn	Robert Titcomb
Joseph Rowe	Sherburn T. Sanborn	Nathan Tuck
John Nudd	John T. Blake	Nathaniel Tuck
Jeremy Bachelder	Stephen B. Chase	Joseph D. Wadleigh
Jacob French	Stephen Green	

Dec. 13, 1832, Theodore Lovering, Dearborn Blake and Ira Blake, Selectmen, announced a meeting to be held at the house of Deacon Jeremiah Fellows, to give hearing on the above petition. After hearing all parties they announced the Road would be laid out, and on March 9, 1833, it was laid out and built the same year.

THE NEW ROAD TO EXETER (1838)

Meeting House Hill Road once completed proved a great convenience. From in front of the old James home (now Perley S. Smith's Rock Haven Apiary) a nearly straight narrow road ran left of the old school house to connect with the Tilton-Kingston road at the fork in

the Jeremiah Sanborn field as we turned to go down the Great Meadows; a section of it is still in good shape through the Philbrick woodlot for 200 yards or so.

People could go to James' Corner, take this road to Jerry Sanborn's, then go left over Shaw's Hill and into Exeter.

In 1821 the people on North Road petitioned Exeter to lay out a road to Kensington over the Great Meadows and promised if they did, Kensington would build its end. Exeter refused to act. After the Meeting House Hill road was built, Col. John T. Blake, a political power in town, headed a petition to the Selectmen to extend the road from James' Corner to Exeter line. This was in 1836 or 1837.

The Selectmen and many townsmen objected that if it be done there was no surety that Exeter would build to meet it. So Col. Blake headed another petition addressed to the County Commissioners and they laid out a road from Court Street in Exeter to James' Corner in Kensington and both towns built in 1838. This gave us our Main Road from Exeter to Amesbury as we now have it.

1840, THE HAVERHILL ROAD. This was the old Meadow road and John W. Shaw and Capt. Stephen Kimball were the agents to build it. It was the year of the great Harrison campaign with the slogan, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," and the first bridge was called "Tippecanoe Bridge."

1845, BEAVER DAM ROAD. When the new Meeting House was built in 1771 the people on the South road petitioned for a highway from the Horse Hill school to the corner by the house of Isaac Fellows, and a semi-private way was put through. Later several attempts were made to improve the way, but not till 1845 was it really made a public highway.

June 25, 1845, John Brown, Robert Titcomb, John French, William Walton, Newell Dow, Charles Hilliard and John T. Blake signed a petition for such a highway.

The Selectmen, Robert Titcomb, Jeremiah Tilton, Jr. and William Rowe, gave a hearing in the South School House on August 8th, and after hearing all parties, laid out the road as follows:

> "Beginning at a point in the center of the South Road 2 rods westerly of the barn of John Brown, thence North 22½ degrees east for 52 rods; thence North 24 degrees east, 49 rods; thence North 23 degrees east, 16½ rods; thence North 10 degrees east, 6 rods and 11 links; then North 6½ degrees east, 7 rods and 19 links; thence North 3 degrees east, 25 rods and 17 links; all the above

being through land of John Brown. Thence North 2 deg. east, 9 rods and 10 links; thence North 5½ deg. west, 10 rods, said courses being through land of John Dow, partly, and partly land of heirs of Jonathan Fellows. Thence North 3 deg. west, 70 rods through land of John Dow in part and in part land of Jonathan Fellows heirs, and partly land of Joseph Poor, terminating at the point where the road from Capt. Benj. Dow's leads to Middle Road School House."

1854, FRYING PAN LANE. This is popularly called the Osgood Road, because the only house upon it was the Osgood House, now the home of Mr. Perfect. At that time there was a joint Unitarian Society made up of Kensington and Hampton Falls Unitarians, and it was a short line between the Union Church in Kensington and the Unitarian Church in Hampton Falls. The Unitarian people had urged it a long time but could not get it built till 1854. There were several town meetings on the matter and much opposition. It was the last piece of new road-building in the history of the town, though since many pieces have been improved.

MAIN ROAD

What is now the Main Road from Exeter to Amesbury was laid out in sections covering many years.

1739, the section from Peveare Lane to the Meeting House was laid out and Jeremiah Green was paid for the land.

July 4, 1754, the section from Eastman Corner to Lamprey Corner was laid out.

June 1755, the section from Eastman Corner to So. Hampton line was laid out.

1832-33, the section from the Meeting House to Brick School Corner was laid out.

1838, the County Commission completed the Main Road when they laid the road from Court St. in Exeter to the Brick School Corner in Kensington.

Highway Surveyors and Their Districts

In the economy of early life the highway surveyor was an important man; it was his duty to keep the roads clear and passable in the Winter months and to fix them up safe for travel after the Spring floods had washed them out. Every citizen had a highway tax which he could pay to the surveyor, who would hire someone to work in his stead

or he could himself work out his tax. And if he were a large taxpayer he could use his team and perhaps his hired man.

At the first town meeting April 18, 1737, John Dow was chosen Surveyor for Horse Hill Road and Henry Lamprey for Hog Pen Road, and Wadleigh Cram and James Prescott for Drinkwater Road.

As crossroads were built and the mileage on public highways became greater, the town was subdivided into an increasing number of districts, till they numbered twelve. Whittier in his poem Snowbound well pictures a familiar scene on the town highways of a New England town as it might be found after any snow storm in any New England town of the older days. How many boys got the same thrill as did the poet Whittier as they joined the crews and teams of straining oxen on a cold winter morning following one of those snow storms that had made the countryside a solid field of white with what was once a road a trackless bank of snow between the stone wall on either side.

THE 12 DISTRICTS IN 1833

District No. 1 extend from Exeter Line southerly to Blake's Corner, thence extend westerly to Potter's corner, thence southerly by Round Hill to Dr. Osgood's gate.

District No. 2 extend from Blake's corner southerly till it meets Lamper's district twenty rods northerly of the top of the hill north of John Brown's house.

District No. 3 extend from Potter's corner so called westerly to Moses James' corner thence northerly, to the southwest corner of Jeremiah Sanborn's field easterly of his house from thence from Moses James' corner westerly by Joseph C. Hilliard's corner, to a pair of bars easterly of Joseph Moulton's house, from thence northerly from said J. C. Hilliard's corner to the corner of the road northerly of Robert Rowe's house.

District No. 4 from East Kingston line easterly by Weare Nudd's to a bridge westerly of Benjamin Prescott's orchard from thence from Weare Nudd's corner easterly to a pair of bars easterly of Joseph Moulton's house, thence from the corner of the road easterly of Benjamin Moulton's to a bridge near Deacon Fellow's land.

District No. 5 extend from the southwest corner of Jeremiah Sanborn's field, easterly of his house, northerly to Exeter line, then from the corner of the road near John W. Shaw's house westerly by Capt. Kimball's to the Exeter line, thence from the corner of the road near Benjamin Prescott's to a bridge westerly of Benjamin Prescott's orchard.

District No. 6 extend from East Kington line easterly to Samuel Dearborn's, thence northerly to a bridge by Deacon Fellow's land, thence

from the corner near Samuel Dearborn's southerly to the northeast corner of Nathan French's land.

District No. 7 from the corner of the road near Samuel Dearborn easterly to the middle road schoolhouse, from thence easterly and southerly by Nathan Dow's to the top of Connor Hill, hence from said schoolhouse north easterly to the corner of Ezra Chase's field.

District No. 8 from Dr. Osgood's gate southerly to the corner near John T. Blake's, then south westerly to Ezra Chase's field, then from Blake's corner southerly to the bridge near Oliver Lock's house, thence from the corner of the road westerly of Nathan Green's house westerly over Brown's Hill to the Middle Road schoolhouse.

District No. 9 northerly from the corner near Sam Lamper's house to twenty rods north of the hill north of John Brown's house, thence easterly from Lamper's corner to Hampton Falls line.

District No. 10 from the north side of Lock's bridge southerly to Eastman's corner, thence easterly to Seabrook line thence westerly to a bridge west of Abel Brown, Jr.'s house, thence southerly by Benjamin Brown's corner along the new road to Southampton line, and thence from said Brown's corner to Southampton line, and thence easterly from said Brown's corner to Seabrook's line.

District No. 11 from the bridge west of Abel Brown's house westerly by John Dow's to the Queen's Bridge, thence from the corner westerly of Capt. B. Dow's house northerly to the northeast corner of Nathan French's land thence from the corner by south road schoolhouse to So. Hampton line.

District No. 12 extend from the Queen's Bridge westerly by Theodore Lovering's to East Kingston line, thence from the corner of the road near Henry F. Brown's westerly by Moses Martin's to East Kingston line, thence from Stephen Page's corner northerly and easterly by Capt. Dow's to Connor Hill thence from the corner of the road near Henry F. Brown's southerly to Michael Gove's house.

Kensington, February 18, 1833, we the under signed Selectmen of the town of Kensington do establish the above limits of the several highway districts in said town.

(Theodore Lovering
Selectmen of Kensington (Dearborn Blake
(Ira Blake

The above arrangement prevailed with little change till early in the decade 1890-1900 when the system of elected "road commissioners" replaced the system.

Abandoned Roads

As long as the farmers kept oxen all abandoned roads were much used as wood-paths, and hence kept in good condition. In the period 1886-1892, when I was roaming all over town with my shotgun I knew them all as I crossed them or walked through them. I identify them as follows: —

HOG PEN MEADOW ROAD

This was used previous to Trundle-Bed Lane and was called Hog Pen Lane, see above. It came out back of Grange Hall, along the present driveway in the Dearborn cemetery; upon it were three and perhaps four houses in the early days of the town.

THE TILTON ROAD

This ran across from Exeter Lane to the present Main Road. The one house upon it burned during the Civil War and was owned by one of the Mark Wadleighs. The bridge is still there.

THE WARD - WALTON ROAD

This entered from South Road above the slate-roofed house and ran to the two Ward homes and then across to Palmer Lane by the present home of George Beckman. The Walton family lived upon it many years.

THE TILTON - SOUTH HAMPTON ROAD

When Philip Tilton in 1728 settled where Royal N. Hallowell now has his summer home, either before or soon after, three other families located there and the road went through to South Hampton, Fitts, Dole and Currier; perhaps others. Later boundary lines showed the other families were in South Hampton. The houses are now gone and the road abandoned Mr. Hallowell's house, and the selectmen have given official sanction to the name "Hickory Lane."

PRESCOTT - STUMPFIELD ROAD

The Prescott family early in the history of the town owned farms that ran through from the road by York's to Moulton Ridge. They had a semi-public road running from one way to the other and one to come out in a road on upper Stumpfield, that ran by the present home of Alvah E. Perkins.

HODGDON - STUMPFIELD ROAD

When Hanson Hodgdon owned a large farm, where George Eastman now lives, he had a semi-public road that ran this side of his house through to Stumpfield.

FOGG ROAD

The original road up Round Hill went past the front of the old parsonage of Rev. Mr. Fogg (now Mr. Perfect's home), continued down near a quarter mile and then came up to join the earliest Hog Pen Lane to Stumpfield.

GREEN - DOW ROAD

Jeremiah Green had a semi-public road that followed the path now back of the home of Mrs. Margaret Lord, continued along the ridge through Frank Poor's Locust Pasture and entered Stumpfield through Hog Pen Lane.

Mr. Green's own house and the house of Jabez Dow were on this road, the Dow home standing just this side of Leonard Miller's house in the Locust Pasture.

BROWN - HEALEY ROAD

A road ran from the home of John Brown (called Jack Brown) just below the home of Arthur Evans, near his saw-mill entrance, down to the Four Corners (Frying Pan Lane).

Some Displaced Roads

THE JAMES ROAD. This ran as stated above from before the old James House (now Smith's Rock Haven Apiaries) to the Tilton-Kingston Road. Upper section still existing. Location somewhat changed and road made straight in 1838.

DOW ROAD. This turned in 250 yards sooner than at present and came out to join Hog Pen Lane at Elihu Chase's home. The way was brought down to present location.

PALMER LANE TO MEETING HOUSE. This old Lane stopped first where the Palmer House stood, site of Robert Beckman house, and later at the other Palmer home, where Percy M. Dunn lives. Before Mr. Dunn's house the road ran up the hill to come out in Peveare Lane near Main Road and so on to the Meeting House. When the road was cut through to Stumpfield by the home of Moses W. Brewster the other way was no longer used.

GRAVES ROAD. When John Graves and his son later, lived this side of Ezekiel Dow's (Eddie Morrill's home) they had a road that ran through and joined Stumpfield. This was discontinued after the road by the West School was laid out.

KIMBALL ROAD. This was changed in 1825 and sections dropped.

HORSE HILL SECTION. In 1850 the town voted to discontinue that section of the original road that ran alongside the hill instead of below it; the latter at that time being the only section in use. The upper road also wound round to connect with the Ward Road.

Roads No Longer Used

Since the automobile came into general use there are several roads that have fallen into disuse. These are:

PEVEARE LANE

Running from Moses W. Brewster's to the Main Road.

OLD SEABROOK ROAD

Running from Salisbury Corner to Seabrook Line.

ROUND HILL ROAD

Running from the home of Selectman George I. Armstrong to Frying Pan Lane (Osgood Road).

DEARBORN ROAD

Running from Bodwell's house to Moulton Ridge.

SKUNK ROAD

Running from Bartlett's to East Kingston Line.

BEAVER DAM

That end of it running from South Road to the house of Roland D. Sawyer, Jr.

NUDD'S HILL

The road running down the hill from the Amos Nudd house, so long owned by Benj. George Moulton and now owned by Charles R. Hutchinson, has recently been discontinued.

THE MEADOW ROAD

The public road down to the Great Meadows was changed sometime after 1838 by an agreement with the Jeremiah Sanborn family, to allow the farmers to cross his pasture, instead of using the original way.

Records of Road Surveys, Etc.

THE 1805 SURVEY

The town at the March meeting 1805 ordered a survey of all roads in town. This vote was carried out May 29, 1805 by the Selectmen, viz., Benjamin Tilton, Simon Rowe and Joseph Weare. No record of the survey was copied into the Town Book or entered in the Selectmen's book, though it is frequently referred to in various records.

In 1930, Benj. J. Weeks, curator of the Historical Society at Tacoma, Washington, sent to the Historical Society of Exeter, several papers he had picked up, which referred to Exeter or the locality. Among these were two booklets made in writing by Simon Rowe in one of which was recorded the Road Survey of 1805. It is now in the possession of the Exeter Historical Society and I have copied it in my MATERIALS FOR A HISTORY OF KENSINGTON, pages 199 to 202.

THE 1733 REPORT

In 1732 the Selectmen of Hampton Falls, under whose jurisdiction we then lived, at the request of various people here, on our North Road, laid out several roads on the North and Northwest sides of the town. Their report was returned Feb. 20, 1733, and is printed in NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCE DEEDS, Vol. 25 of State Papers, at page 450. (Copied in my MATERIAL at pages 203-4.)

MAPS

THE SAMUEL PALMER MAP OF 1732

N. H. State Papers, Vol. 24, Pages 889-890, prints the Map and returns of a survey made by Samuel Palmer of Hampton, showing our roads and how many families were living on such in 1732.

THE TOWLE MAP OF 1785

Some years ago at the auction of Sarah Towle in South Hampton, there was sold a well-drawn map, made by her ancestor. The Misses Elizabeth and Josephine Prescott bought the map of the antique dealer and it now hangs in our Library. The map is perfect but the names of only some 20 household heads are written in.

THOMAS RAND, JR. MAP, 1823

Mr. Rand for the Selectmen drew a map from the 1805 survey, and put therein the houses of the town. The only copy is in the N. H. HISTORICAL SOCIETY at Concord.

THE JOSEPH WEARE BROWN MAP OF 1849

Joseph W. Brown in 1849, brought the Survey map of 1805 down to his date and inserted the names of home-owners at that time. His grandson, Ralph B. Fish, has placed the map in our Library.

THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY MAP OF 1857

This map was published by a Philadelphia firm in 1857 and has every town in the county, with roads all inserted and the names of home-owners given, of all the towns of the county, Kensington included, of course.

HAMPTON TOWN BOOKS AND KENSINGTON RECORDS

These contain record of all votes on road matters.

Work on the Roads

In earliest days work was done as a community donation and by mutual agreement; not till June 1, 1772 do we find a record of the town stating there should be pay and how much. The following March 60 pounds was raised for road work. What the early pay was we have not found, but in March 1824 it was voted to allow for work on the roads, 8 cents an hour for each able-bodied man, and the same for a yoke of oxen. In 1840 this was raised to a dollar a day for the man or the yoke of oxen. During the Civil War the pay was increased to 15 cents an hour for man or cattle, with half pay for boys between 14 and 18 years of age. This price prevailed as long as the Highway System lasted, around 1890.

That the above named bill for liquor in 1831 was the usual thing is seen by the following item from the records of 1823, when Elijah Shaw, who was agent for building the Meadow and Kimball roads, put in the following bill, which was paid:

To 14 gallons of rum at 41 cents per gal.	5.74
To 7 gallons of rum at 40 cents per gal.	2.80
To 1 gallon of rum at 41 cents per gal.	.41
To mending a plough that broke	1.74
To 307 feet timber for Tippecanoe Bridge	15.50
Total	$26.19

CHAPTER 15
HISTORY OF KENSINGTON LIBRARIES

There are few living people who have spent so many hours in Libraries as the writer. During 28 winters in Boston between 1913 and 1941 he spent at least 20 hours a week in the Libraries of greater Boston. And never was he so proud of his native town and its people as when he spent a half day going through the old Kensington Social Library. The excellence of the titles selected, the evidence that they were widely read, the early date the Library movement existed in town, these made him take off his hat in deep respect for those thoughtful and knowledge-loving men of olden days. Kensington was surely a pioneer in the move for adult education.

The Social Library in Kensington

This was formed in 1767 by Caleb Shaw, Deacon Joseph Chase Hilliard, Jeremiah Sanborn, Samuel Tucke, James Page, Jeremiah Bachelder, and their first volume was bought May 28, 1767, and it was Vol. I of THE FAMILY EXPOSITOR by Rev. Dr. Philip Doddridge, pub. Nov. 27, 1738, and it contains HISTORY OF THE GOSPEL down as far as Peter's Confession at Caesarea Phillipi.

The Kensington Social Library

The GRANITE MONTHLY, May 1900, carried a history of the Library movement in New Hampshire, and showed that in 1792 Dover, in 1796 Tamworth, in 1797 Amherst, Boscawen, Canterbury, Chester, Cornish, Deering, Dublin, Exeter, Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, Hillsbourough, Jaffery, Lyme, Meriden, New Durham, Hudson, Nelson, Sanborntown, Temple, and Wakefield and Brookfield together, all had local libraries incorporated.

In 1798 Major Jeremiah Fogg, Ebenezer Potter, Jeremiah Bachelder, Joseph Brown, Enoch Worthen, Newell Healey, and their Associates, petitioned to be incorporated as THE KENSINGTON SOCIAL LIBRARY.

Gov. John Taylor Gilman signed the act Dec. 27, 1798 and Major Fogg and Mr. Potter were designated to call the first meeting of "The Proprietors."

The first meeting was held in the home of Deacon Jeremiah Fellows, and the following officers were elected: Directors, Jere Fogg, John Dow, Capt. Joseph Brown, Moses Shaw, Col. Jere Bachelder; Secretary, Dr. Jabez Dow; Treasurer, Ensign John Blake; Librarian, Deacon Jere Fellows.

The library was to be opened two afternoons each week end and the librarian paid three dollars per year for his services. By 1816 the shareholders had increased to forty-three. In 1820 the number of books was one hundred and thirty-nine. In 1856 the last officials of the library were elected, they being as follows: Directors, Stephen Green, Ira Blake, John Adams Blake, Jere Poor, and William Row; Librarian, Joseph Poor; Secretary, Charles E. Tuck.

Members paid dues of 25 cents a year, which allowed them to take out one book at a time, or dues of $1 a year which allowed them to take out five books at any given time. Persons not due-paying members could take out books for 2 cents a day. The quaint little bookcase built of white pine now rests in the upper room of the beautiful brick building donated to the town by the late Joseph Chase Hilliard. On the door is still pasted the 260 titles of books of the original library prior to 1849. Ten years ago I examined the shelves and found that of the original list 125 titles of the original 260 were still on the shelves, which make up a total of 148 volumes of the original 290 volumes.

Selection of volumes is excellent. History, biography, travels, and essays supplement the sermons, letters, and memoirs which are always found in early libraries. More than half the volumes were first editions and perhaps some of the missing books were sold clandestinely because of the value of the first edition. I note the following authors: Rt. Honorable Joseph Addison, Jeremy Belknap, Edward Young, John Newton, William Robertson, James Sullivan, Dr. Johnson, Joel Barlow, Dr. Watts, Caleb Cushing, Harriet Martineau, Bunyan, Jefferson, Washington, Goldsmith, Seneca, Cervantes.

Some of the titles are Addison on the Evidences of the Christian Religion, Paley on the same subject, Belknap's History of New Hampshire, Cook's Voyages, Travels of Captain Jonathan Carver in North America, Don Quixote; William Gorden, History of the United States; Thomas Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, Pilgrim's Progress, Sullivan's History of the District of Maine, Thomson's Seasons, Joel Barlow's Vision of Columbus, Isaac Watts' Improvement of the Mind, Goldsmith's Ancient History, Seneca's Morals, Histories of Greece and Rome, Napoleon's Campaigns, Life of Henry Clay, Life of Paul Jones, and so forth.

The Ladies Sewing Society Library

In 1841 the Unitarians of Hampton Falls and Kensington united into one parish and called Mr. Jacob Caldwell, who was ordained over the two churches Dec. 22, 1841. Rev. Andrew P. Peabody preached the ordination sermon.

Mr. Caldwell was a grandson of Jacob of Ipswich and graduated from Harvard, 1828, and later from its Divinity School. He was imbued with the spirit of Emerson and sympathized with Parker. He moved to organize in Hampton Falls a Ladies Library which was kept in his house. He lived in the parsonage one time occupied by Dr. Langdon (see Brown Vol. 2, page 72-73).

After Mr. Caldwell ended his pastorate in 1848 the union of Hampton Falls and Kensington continued and Rev. Increase Sumner Lincoln of Warren, Mass., and a graduate of Yale, was called. He lived in the old Potter House, now gone, opposite the entrance to Round Hill Road. He resigned 1851 and removed to Rowe and Warwick, Mass. and died in Wilton, N. H., in 1895.

Mr. Lincoln, or rather his wife, did for the Ladies of Kensington what was done by Mr. Caldwell in Hampton Falls; she gathered the ladies together at her home to organize the Ladies Library. April 29, 1849 the Ladies Sewing Society Library was organized, the Executive Committee being: Miss Hannah Moulton, Mrs. Sarah B. (Hilliard) Brown and Mrs. Tabitha (Dow) Tilton. The first secretary was Miss Mary C. Hilliard; Librarian, Elizabeth O. Osgood.

Charter members, beside the foregoing officers, were: Mrs. Abby C. H. Lincoln, Sarah D. Tuck, Betsy J. Dow, Esther Lamprey.

The association met each fortnight and did sewing, one member reading from some book while the rest sewed, and the proceeds of their sewing to go to buy new books. The association continued to 1889 when their total number of volumes was seven hundred and twenty-five volumes. Some gifts from various sources and others were bought from the proceeds of the association. In 1889 the sewing part of the project was dropped and the body reorganized as the Ladies' Library Association. From around 1870 the Ladies' Library was maintained in the home of Francis Hilliard, who was also postmaster and storekeeper, and whose wife, Mrs. Maria (Blodgett) Hilliard, a former school teacher, was librarian.

The Ladies bought a great many books; when it moved to the brick building in 1895 it had 725 volumes. Its selection was good. The wholesome fiction of the days was secured, writings of E. P. Roe, Louisa B. Alcott, et al. Persons could have use of books for $1.00 a year or 2 cents a day. Mrs. Hilliard was always kindly and wise in helping readers to select books.

The Free Town Library

At the March meeting of 1893 the town voted to accept a legislative act offering to donate $100 worth of books by the state to towns that

would set up an organization and raise $25 for books. The town raised the $25 and chose John Adams Blake, Josiah D. Prescott and Miss Sarah Abby Green as trustees. This Board met April 4 at the home of Mr. Blake, and voted to place the books with those of the Ladies' Library and pay Mrs. Hilliard $15 a year to act as Librarian, books to be available every Saturday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9. The first distribution of books came on Sept. 23, 1893. The library moved into the Brick building in 1895.

Kensington Social Library Building

In 1895 Joseph Chase Hilliard of Boston presented to a Board of Trustees for the benefit of the people of Kensington and the free use of its citizens forever, the beautiful brick building which had been built in the preceding months. The building took the name of the original 1798 Kensington Library. The books of the Ladies' Library and of the public library were moved from Mrs. Hilliard's to the new building and the case containing a major part of the two hundred and sixty volumes of the old social library was later brought to the new building from the home of Cyrus Wadleigh on Drinkwater Road, where it had been for many years.

The first Board of Trustees of the new Kensington Social Library was as follows: —

Joseph C. Hilliard, of Exeter, N. H.
John A. Blake, of Kensington, N. H.
George Osgood, of Kensington, N. H.
Weare N. Shaw, of Kensington, N. H.
Sarah Hilliard, of Kensington, N. H.
Sarah A. Green, of Kensington, N. H.
George A. Wentworth, of Exeter, N. H.
Bradbury L. Cilley, of Exeter, N. H.
Frances E. Moulton, of Exeter, N. H.

Mrs. A. Maria Hilliard was chosen first librarian. She was succeeded by her daughter, Miss Mary A. Hilliard. Then came Arthur G. Wadleigh, George Osgood, Misses Priscilla and Edith Prescott, and Mrs. Esther Hussey Prescott. At the present Miss Nellie Hilliard is acting librarian.

CHAPTER 16
KENSINGTON TAVERNS AND PLACES LICENSED TO SELL LIQUOR

The tavern in American History was a necessary institution. In a sparsely settled country, where travel was by horseback, and especially in New England, where so many of the months of the year the weather is cold, it was necessary to have shelter for man and beast.

The fee for putting up a man and his horse and giving them supper and lodging was at first only 2 shillings (33 cents); it later was increased to 50 cents. Then, as with later hotel, it was quite necessary to increase profits by the sale of liquor. Thus taverns were licensed, which filled a two-fold purpose; it enabled the traveler to know that he was stopping in a safe place, and it enabled the tavern-keeper to get extra compensation by selling liquor.

Later, as settlement was established and a meeting house was put up, it was necessary to have a tavern near the Meeting House.

The first licensed tavern in North America was that of John Vyall of Boston; he was given a license to keep public house "provided he keep it near the Meeting House."

The Meeting Houses were cold and had no stoves, and whether the people gathered there to worship God or discuss political affairs, it was necessary to have near by a place where the women could get hot ashes and coals for their foot stoves, and the men get their hot toddy.

Thus town meetings, Sunday services, ordinations, installations, theological conferences, brought men to the Meeting House and the tavern.

The Palmer Tavern, 1754

Kensington followed this evolution. Stephen Palmer living on the South Road, line of travel between Kingston and Hampton, and who was married 1752, kept a tavern for ten years. After losing four children by sore throat distemper in 1764, early in 1765 he sold his estate to his younger brother Jonathan and moved to Dunbartown.

The Blake–Worthen–Fellows Tavern, 1759–1830

From before 1730 various families had small homes and farm-lots on the tract this side the Meeting House. In 1759, John Blake, a carpenter, bought the small house and four acres previously owned by Elisha Purington and John Fifield who had run a blacksmith shop, and using the house thus bought as an ell he put up a square house of two stories and opened a tavern. It stood where Frank Poor's house now stands

and was moved off for the parsonage of Mr. Eldridge, now the home of Leonard B. Miller.

This was the first Tavern near the Meeting House. Before this William Evens, who lived opposite the Meeting House, had sold coffee and lunches and furnished heat, but had never received a license to sell liquor.

Mr. John Blake died in 1770; his widow, Love Blake, married Jacob Worthen and Worthen kept the tavern till 1794 when he sold to Jeremiah Fellows, Deacon of the church.

Deacon Fellows was an enterprising man. He was Deacon, Tavern-keeper, and Blacksmith; the three callings working together very well. Men who brought their cattle and horses to be shod in the blacksmith shop could loaf around the tavern while the work was being done, so that the good Deacon's account book shows "To shoeing one yoke of oxen . . . . To one glass of toddy . . . . To one glass of Flip" and so forth. Also on the Sabbath, during the intermission between the morning and afternoon service, minister and congregation could come to the tavern and warm up. Also on any special occasion, like an ecclesiastical council, people who came to the church 200 yards away, could spend much of their time in Deacon Fellows' Tavern. With two long sermons on a Sabbath and the noon hour between, while the women gossiped the men could go to the tavern and get their hot rum and toddy, and discuss both religious and political matters.

Potter Tavern, 1775

Ebenezer Potter, school-master and politician, delegate to the Provincial Congress, etc., kept a tavern at the head of Round Hill Road opposite the present home of George Armstrong. The last use of the house was as parsonage home for Rev. Increase Sumner Lincoln around 1850 and it was there the ladies of the Unitarian Church gathered as a Sewing Circle and organized the Ladies Sewing Library.

Eastman's Tavern, 1785

Benjamin Eastman and then Nathaniel Eastman kept a tavern two generations at Eastman's Corner. Before the Tavern swung a large sign, and standing at the four-corners it did a thriving business. Nathaniel Eastman was an old-time fiddler and the large room in the house, a hall in size, was the scene of many an old-time break-down dance.

The Locke-Brown Tavern, 1826

In 1796 the road between Lamprey's Corner and Tuck's Corner at Drinkwater was laid out. Not long after the stage from Newburyport to Exeter went over it and it was called the Stage Road. In 1825 Oliver Locke wanted to put up a building and establish a tavern at Lamprey's Corner. The Lamprey family objected and thwarted Locke by getting the jump on him and buying the land which he had intended to use. So he bought a tract of land from Benjamin Merrill which adjoined the homestead of his father, Josiah Locke. He opened his tavern 1826 and kept it until 1836 when he bought a hotel in Boston (the old Franklin House, which he enlarged) and sold his tavern to Capt. Henry Brown, who was a retired sea captain who had been born at Salisbury and ran away to sea when a boy.

The building put up for a tavern by Oliver Locke was well planned for its purpose, and was a flourishing institution between 1826 and 1846, being for some years post office and gathering place for caucuses and political meetings, wrestling matches, etc. The post office was moved to Blake's store in 1838 and the Town Hall was built in 1846 and thus the tavern became less of a center of activity. After being several years the home of Mrs. Matilda F. Johnson it has been recently purchased by Frederick Keough of Everett, Mass.

Kensington being off the main line of travel none of our taverns ever entertained the celebrated travellers who wrote books of their travels, such as Timothy Dwight or La Rochefoucault, or of great men like Washington and Lafayette.

Persons Licensed to Retail Spirits

There were many who were licensed to sell liquor beside the tavern-keepers. Several kept store and others merely sold in their homes.

Lydia Fogg, daughter-in-law of the first minister, kept a store in the parsonage and sold liquor, as did her son-in-law, Dr. Osgood.

Lydia Eastman sold at the site of the old Tavern after Nathaniel Eastman died.

The several store-keepers on the South Road who had a store above Harry Greenwood's all sold liquor at retail, viz., Nathan Weare, Robert Titcomb, Thompson and Clark, Jonathan Badger, Jonathan Palmer, Nathan Green, Gardner Green.

Jacob French sold at his home where Eddie Morrill now lives, and Jonathan Hilliard sold at his home below Lamprey's corner.

The Stewart family sold at the center where he had a blacksmith shop, and his daughter, Widow Abigail Johnson, kept store and sold in the house where Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Prescott now live.

After Mrs. Johnson sold her place to Jonathan Hilliard, Philemon Blake opened a store and sold liquor in 1727 in the old Timothy Locke shop. He died in a little over a year and his brother, John T. Blake, took over. Till 1854 the store was run by John T. and his brother Newell and a great amount of liquor of all kinds was sold. As the store was also Post Office from 1838 on, and as a dozen or more men worked upstairs, the store was quite a social center.

After the state law was changed, Thomas Blake sold ale in the store up into Civil War days.

Rev. Mr. Eldridge in 1867 was the leading spirit in organizing the Hoosac Division, Sons of Temperance, and their influence soon became strong and Kensington became a town where the legalized sale of liquor was not allowed, beyond the selling of cider.

For many years various farmers sold some of their surplus cider by the pitcher and jug, but one by one even this was given up.

After 1870 all persons wanting drink went to Exeter or Newburyport, and sometimes Amesbury, which went license about half the time.

CHAPTER 17
THE DARK SIDE OF THE PICTURE
SICKNESS, ACCIDENTS, FIRES, CRIME, VIOLENCE, SUICIDE

Forty years ago, before the modern use of the gasoline engine and complicated farm machinery, farming was rated by the Accident Insurance companies as a dangerous occupation. And 20 years before that many a farmer could be found whose mis-shapen arms or legs told of unset broken bones.

One who studies first hand the life of the earlier days in New England comes quickly to see the terrible dark side of the picture as he views the hardships, sicknesses, accidents, fires, that came upon a people so poorly equipped to meet them. Surely there was a terribly tragic side of life in earlier days and it is small wonder that the number of suicides is not greater than it is.

Kingston faced more of this dark side of life than any town in America so far as I am aware. Kensington faced less than many earlier towns in its general life, but with Kingston it shared the supreme hardship that came in 1735, and broke out in various years thereafter, of what they called "The Throat Distemper" but which we know as Diphtheria. Of the 15 towns where that plague struck in 1735, next to Kingston, Kensington suffered most, because the town line was only two miles from where the disease started.

The Ravages of "The Throat Distemper"

May 26, 1735, Rev. Ward Clark the earnest and able young pastor of the Kingston Church was called in to privately baptize the little dying Nathaniel Webster, son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth. The child died the same day. The next day little John, two years older died, and the next day little Elizabeth, two years older than John, and the last of the children of the family, also died. All died in the same manner, the symptoms being familiar to us who have watched diphtheria as it raged 40 years ago.

Within 14 months near 1,200 had died in the 15 towns which the disease reached. Boston handled the disease well, for in October when a New Hampshire man developed the disease there he was promptly put into the Small Pox pest house and the spread was prevented. But at the first, the people with no idea of the germ origin of disease, and hence its danger of contagion, took no precautions, and the spread and havoc of the disease was terrible. The first 40 persons who had the disease, all children, all died; some were in Kingston, some in Kensington 2 miles away.

There is no sadder picture in the history of civilized man than is presented by the matter-of-fact record of deaths left by Rev. Ward Clark; between May 26, and Dec. 22, 106 children under 10 years of age and four over that age had died.

Mr. Clark's own family all died; his young wife and baby, two older children; and worn out and depressed he gave up the Parish in 1736, went back to his parent's home in Exeter, and died early in 1737.

Kensington had its Meeting House up and winter preaching starting Feb. 1734, and was getting ready for independent parish life, but as yet it was still a part of Hampton Falls, hence the " death record " was kept in Hampton Falls by Rev. Mr. Whipple. That death record was used by Rev. George Osgood, George Dudley Dodge and Warren Brown. I have been unable to find it, but from what I have found in their quotations and in Kensington Family records. the following are the figures of

HOW KENSINGTON SUFFERED FROM " THROAT DISTEMPER "

Between June 1 and Dec. 1, 1735, there died over 40 children under 10 years of age, six over 10 years of age and 3 adults. Seven families lost 27 children, everyone dying who was taken sick. The first 8 months of 1736 we lost near 40 more, or near 90 the first 15 months of the plague. In 1737 we lost near 30 more, thus the town saw 120 deaths OR MORE, between June 1735 and Dec. 31, 1737, and our population was not over 600, probably less. By 1738 there were few children left to die, and till 1750 deaths were few, only one in 1744.

From 1738 we have the Kensington Death List of Rev. Mr. Fogg to follow, and our total deaths by " Throat Distemper " between 1738 and 1764, were 126 in number, making a total between 1735 and 1764 of at least 250 deaths, probably more if we had complete records.

Jeremy Belknap in his HISTORY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE gives good space to a study of the " Distemper ", and Dr. Jabez Dow in Dover, a native here, published in 1802 a booklet called KENSINGTON TABLE OF MORTALITY. Dr. Dow's booklet starts with Rev. Mr. Fogg's record in 1738. From these studies and my own, I can make the following —

SUMMARY OF THE " THROAT DISTEMPER "

(Figures run from May 26 to Aug. 22, because Rev. Mr. Clark's records stop there)

May 26, 1735 to Aug. 22, 1736, 1,200 die in 15 towns.
150 die in Kingston.
210 die in Hampton Falls, which

included Kensington and Seabrook. Over 90 of the deaths in Kensington.

ANALYSIS OF HAMPTON FALLS DEATHS (Belknap)

160 under 10 years of age
40 between 10 and 20 years of age
9 between 20 and 30 years of age
1 above 30 years of age

210 Total
20 Families in town lost all their children

RE-CURRENCES OF THE DISEASE IN KENSINGTON

1745, between January and May, 16 children died.

1747, starting Nov. 25 in the home of Joseph Shaw on Stumpfield and running to warm weather again, but resuming when cold came in 1748, 52 children died.

1760, another winter epidemic with 22 children dying; four families lost 3 each.

1764, another winter epidemic with 24 deaths, Stephen Palmer lost four children of the age of 2, 5, 9 and 11.

Between June 1st, 1735 and the spring of 1764, Kensington lost around 250 of its population, mostly children. In the same time we lost one death by Small Pox, thus the scourge of New England was not Small Pox but Diphtheria after 1735.

In the late summer of 1735 the New Hampshire clergy met in solemn conclave of prayer, fasting and consideration, as to the cause of the plague, and after three days solemnly decided that it was because New Hampshire did not have a law compelling the parishes to pay the salaries of their ministers, and pointed out that Massachusetts had such a law, and did not have the plague.

The tradition was that the family where it started had eaten a sick hog, which they killed and ate. Dr. Josiah Bartlett, then in Kingston as a young doctor had the greatest success in treating the disease, treating it with Peruvian Bark.

In 1821 a member of the French Academy of Medicine read a paper in which he tried to show that modern diphtheria was a disease that prevailed in Holland in 1500 A. D. and was to be found through the centuries before that, but a generation later a German scientist wrote a treatise in which he showed that it is a modern disease and originated in Kingston, New Hampshire in America.

To a layman the query arises, "How is it that modern scientific medicine, which says that the diphtheria germ only lives a few weeks, can account for the disease being dormant for months and then breaking out again and again?"

The Toppan family had two houses, one each side of the line at "Tappan's Corner;" both families lost children in June 1735, as did the family of Philip Dow, living where Mr. Hallowell now owns; also the Draper family, then renting Mr. Dow's small house, and the families on upper Stumpfield, near the Kingston line, Locke, Blake and Shaw, all lost several children each.

ACCIDENTS

THE HAMPTON BEACH DROWNING OF 1898

"The sad hand of God upon eight persons going in a vessel by sea from Hampton to Boston, who were swallowed up on the ocean soon after they were out of the harbor," so read the entry in the Hampton Town Book of the accident on Oct. 20, 1657, when four men, two women and two children were all lost in one of those sudden storms that come up along Hampton coast.

The tradition of the sad event lived many generations in the old town and Whittier has made it immortal in his poem, "THE WRECK OF RIVERMOUTH ROCKS."

In the same way Kensington suffered the worst accident in its history on July 4th, 1898, when a sudden mid-afternoon storm of great proportions struck Hampton Beach, and a party of the Christian Endeavor Society of the Congregational Church were in an overturned boat, and four with the owner of the boat being drowned. They were Mrs. Nellie (Dow) Parker, Walter G. Hodgdon and his two children, Gertrude and Ralph, both students in school at Exeter.

The joint funeral for all victims was held in the Congregational Church, though only two bodies were present; the body of Gertrude was found later and the body of Ralph was never found.

The Church was crowded and others around the doors, and all followed the bodies to the cemetery in double procession. Seven clergymen took part in the funeral, viz., Rev. Messrs. David Fraser, George Osgood, Elvin James Prescott, Roland D. Sawyer, John A. Pogue, A. G. Shattuck and J. W. Goodwin.

VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL ACCIDENTS

Aug. 5, 1765, Nathan Tilton, son of John, drowned in Exeter River, age 17 and 11½ months.

April 7, 1796, Joseph Edgerly, drowned on the Great Meadows, age 19, had married Ruth (Hilliard) Scriggins of Newmarket six days before.

June 1, 1797, Jonathan Tilton, while drunk, fell from Cove Bridge and drowned.

Dec. 17, 1797, Widow Mary Swain, a foreigner and pauper, died from exposure and starvation.

Jan. 18, 1800, Ebenezer Prescott and his wife, Phoebe (Eastman), thrown from their sleigh by a runaway horse while driving to Raymond, and went through thin ice under the bridge and drowned.

Apr. 17, 1832, Joseph Fogg was found in the woods dead where he had gone with his horse to get wood. The horse came up alone. What happened was never known.

Jan. 29, 1838, Robert Forsaith, a veteran of 1812, called "Doctor," and who lived alone after his wife died in 1828, froze to death while drunk as he returned toward his house late at night.

1838, Little Robert Rowe, son of Robert, burned to death.

1841, Jonathan Hobbs killed by a cow that went wild, which he was helping Charles Haley, of Exeter, to butcher. 29 years of age.

1847, Apr. 26, Daniel or Thomas McGee (accounts give both names), a hired man, froze to death while drunk, on the left of the road 250 yards this side of foot of Shaw's hill as we come from Exeter over the Meadow Road. He got leg weary, went through a pair of bars and laid down and was frozen stiff when found.

1848, March 9, Lucy Perose, colored and called "Old Black Luce," froze to death on Exeter Lane. Nate Fellows and three others found the body, made a coffin, held a "wake" with two gallons of rum, and brought her to the upper yard and gave her the jolliest buriel ever given anyone in Kensington.

1848, Jonathan Tibbetts, blasting rocks on Robert Rowe place on North Road, was blown several feet by using improvised fuse, picked up and left to die, but after five days showed signs of recovery and did recover. Pieces of rock went right through his body.

1849, Peter Tilton and John Cram drowned in Hampton Falls river while working on the marsh. Cram attempted to rescue Tilton who could not swim and both were drowned.

1850-1865, In this period at dates I cannot locate, the following accidental deaths:

Ira James and another man drowned at Rock Landing in Seabrook. James got into a deep hole, his companion trying to rescue him, both drowned. George Dearborn attempted to rescue both but failed.

Willie Spaulding, making his first ocean trip with older brother George, lost grip on rigging in a storm and thrown into the sea, age 18.

John Blaisdell, who killed John Wadleigh in 1822, froze to death beneath Christian Meeting House, where he crawled to sleep while drunk.

John P. Blake thrown from wagon by horse that bolted when train came in at East Kingston; he was unloading apples from back of a wagon. Probably a broken neck.

1870-1880, William Blake killed by R. R. cars at Lynn.

Moses Stevens killed in same way, above Haverhill, working as a brakeman. Age 22.

1887, February, Moses Brown froze in blizzard in North Dakota.

1887, Capt. Joe Brown died from effects of a fall in his barn.

1887, March 13, Mark J. Wadleigh, age 78 and 6 months, killed by a falling tree he was watching choppers cut. 60 years earlier his father killed near same place in same way.

1890, July, Jonathan Fitts has neck broken when pitched from a load of hay he was loading in the field, age 87.

1892, Dec. 22, Ire E. Brown, Civil War veteran, age 70, thrown from wagon on Town Hill, Exeter, when struck by hack carrying his son.

1894, Oct. 5, Miss Francena Gill, age 17, from shock and loss of blood when cut by the razor of a crude attempt at a joke.

1895, Jan. 15, Gilman Lamprey, age 38, blood poison following cut by an axe.

1895, January, Martha Oaks burned to death in Lynn.

1895, November, Rev. Jonathan Brown burned to death at his home on South Road while lighting his morning fire. He lived alone.

1897, Jan. 26, John H. Brewster, age 49, blood poison following cut on toe by an axe.

1898, Sept. 5, William O. Tilton, skull fractured when his safety bicycle and that of another rider had a head-on collision.

1902, George Kenniston died on South Road from eating toadstools which he mistook for mushrooms.

1903, Oct. 18, Irving Kimball, age 31, and his nephew, Joseph Osgood of Haverhill, age 22, hunting near Stumpfield Road. Osgood's gun discharged by accident, received the charge in his leg. It was one hour and forty minutes before the doctors came and he lost so much blood he died at 7 in the evening.

1904, Feb., Charles E. Fish, result of being gored by a bull.

1906, Harriet Ann French, aged lady, burned to death by catching her clothing on fire at the stove.

1907, Aug. 10, Carl Johnson, son of John Johnson on Rowe place, was shot by his brother who was playing "movie picture" hero. Lived 36 hours, bullet in the head. Carl was 8 and the brother, August, was 10.

1910, Jan. 23, Merle Flanders and Eva Carbonneau drowned in Hampton Falls river where they had gone for clams. This was a mysterious case and probably foul play, or attempt at it. The body of Miss Carbonneau was found two days later and the Flanders boy was found in April and buried here. Both were young.

1911, May 5, Henry C. Tuck found dead by drowning.

1911, May, Roscoe Kimball, age 30, killed by fall to concrete floor of his silo.

1913, George A. P. Wadleigh, son of Mark J., driving a wagon near Whittier Birthplace in Haverhill, was struck by electric car and thrown and run over and killed. This makes three generations to die by accident.

1917, James Cilley drowned in "Jack's Hole" in Hampton Falls river.

1923, Charles Bennett, who at the time owned the present Noyes home at the head of Beaver Dam Road, was killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol owned by Moses Brewster and which was being shown him at the time.

1928, Feb., Mrs. Georgianna Hodgdon died in Anna Jaques Hospital from burns from exploding oil-stove.

1931, Major Peacock (Hyla D. Jr.) was killed near Poor's Saw Mill site by "Hit-and-run" automobile driver.

1934, March 29, Stephen Brown from a fall in his barn while doing morning chores before it was fully light.

1937, June 16, Willie L. Dunton, age 17, auto accident in Derry.

1937, August, automobile accident, Mrs. Hibbert Baker.

FIRES

SEMI-PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Kensington has been fortunate in regard to fires in its public buildings; so far as I can learn the town has never lost a school house or Meeting House or Town Hall by fire.

There have been burned, however, two semi-public buildings, both since the Civil War.

THE DEACON FELLOWS BLACKSMITH SHOP

Elisha Purington, gunsmith and blacksmith, put up a blacksmith shop near the Meeting House, some time in the decade 1740-1750. Later a John Fifield came from Kingston and ran it. Then William

Evens, Jr. did work in it and finally it passed into the hands of Jeremiah Fellows, Jr.

Fellows moved the shop or put up a new one, and ran it in connection with his tavern. It stood between the barn of Frank Poor and the old Rufus Hilliard house.

Dec. 22, 1876, Francis Hilliard had been working in the shop putting shoes on a pung. Evidently some fire was left, for in early evening, soon after it turned dark, the shop was all ablaze.

It had two parts, the front part the blacksmith shop, the back the clock-making part. There Deacon Fellows had made the works and Ebenezer Clifford had made the cases, for perhaps the best clocks of old days. Mrs. Gilman of Exeter sold one for $1000 in recent years.

That burning is the earliest recollection the writer has, he lacking three weeks of being three years of age the night it burned. The awe or fear of the bright light, the clouds of smoke that blew his way, the excited women watching, all fixed themselves forever upon his mind.

The shop had been used many years by Joseph Poor at the time it burned.

The following is the account of the burning by Rev. George Osgood in the NEWS-LETTER of the following week: —

"The shop originally belonged to Deacon Jeremiah Fellows, where first he and then his son, worked at smithing and clock-making. Mr. Fellows bought 3 acres of land from Widow Love Blake, who had kept tavern after the death of her husband, John Blake. After the sale she moved to Deerfield, and one of her descendants now keeps Gorham Hall in Exeter.

"Deacon Fellows was blacksmith, gunsmith, clock-maker, farmer and tavern keeper and a kind neighbor, a useful citizen who lived to a good old age.

"His son Jeremiah carried on after he became old.

"Deacon Fellows was 25 when the Revolution started and he paid $1500 of continental money for his anvil.

"He gave a note to Widow Love Smith for three acres of land, that he would make a clock each year of the next three years for her three daughters. . . . How the deacon and his son had the ingenuity to mend and make most everything filled us in childhood with wonder, and some of our earliest distinct memories are of standing and watching their work and to listening to their quaint humor as they told their stories and moralized on the lessons of life." G. O.

THE OLD BLAKE STORE, SHOE-SHOP AND POST OFFICE

Timothy Blake Locke in the decade 1760-1770 put up the building to be used in connection with his Tannery. He is on record as "trader and tanner," and it is probable he kept a store in the building.

David Stewart bought the property and he and his son-in-law Johnson ran a blacksmith shop in an old tan-shed, and someone kept a small store in the building, perhaps Mrs. Johnson, mother of Stewart's daughter-in-law.

Hezekiah Blake of Stumpfield and Josiah Blake bought the property in 1805 and first Josiah Blake, then his nephew, Philemon Blake, kept store there 1805 to 1828.

Philemon died suddenly in 1828 and his brother, John T., took over. He enlarged the building, made personal trips to Boston to buy goods and increased the business of the store, and made coarse and fine boots in the upper story. When his boot-making was going good the store was taken over by Newell Blake, later a prosperous business man in Bangor and state senator and mayor of the city. A Wadleigh had the store a short time between 1850 and 1855, then Col. Blake's son Thomas. After the Civil War another son, George, took over, and upon his death in 1892, his sister, Mary Esther Warner, took over.

Mrs. Warner had been appointed postmistress and was to take office in March, 1894, when one February morning as Frank A. Mace went out to milk he saw the blaze. He ran to the shop, shouting an alarm. Wendell Hilliard was early with him on the spot, but it was too late to save anything.

In the upper story was much old-fashioned "boot-making" machinery and the benches of several turned workmen, and boxes of Col. Blake's old letters and papers and pamphlets, dating from 1828.

Downstairs in the back room were various things, muskets, knapsacks, etc., that George and Henry Blake brought back from the Civil War.

All were burned, and with their burning went a most valuable lot of material that could tell of the activities of the town between 1820 and 1894. (The writer and his father had worked upstairs many years making turned shoes and lost benches and kits and much collected through the years.)

FIRES OF HOMES AND BARNS

1789, May 23, The barn of Rev. Jeremiah Fogg burned while he was at Exeter in his chaise. In Sept. he was turned out of his pulpit and he died Dec. 1, verily a year of trouble for the old servant of the Lord.

1830, The homestead of Hanson Hodgdon on North Road, which he had sold to Edmund Rowell of Newton, but who had not moved in.

1853, Col. Abel Brown house on Horse Hill Road. On the other side of the road from his new house, now Frank Poor's slate-roofed house.

1876, Fellows-Poor blacksmith shop as noted above.

1882, January, Page saw-mill on Horse Hill Road.

1894, Blake shop and store as noted above.

1895, Nov., Home of Rev. Jonathan Brown on South Road.

1896, The shoe shop of Charles Foss on Stumpfield Road. Blazing shingles blew to top of the hill and burned flat house and barn on old Josiah Brown "site," where Levi Benson Tilton had lived.

1897, Aug. 6, John H. Brewster's barn, by lightning.

1898, The fine old house and barn of Ellery Palmer on South Road. The barn was struck by lightning just after last loads of hay gotten in. The buildings were put up by Daniel Palmer 100 years before.

1905, January, Old home of Hilton family on Lovering Road.

1905, July 10, Barns of John True and Abel Page, both struck by lightning and burned.

1906, June, Josiah D. Prescott's barn burned.

1908, House, barn, all buildings of George Arthur Evans burned; formerly Pine Grove Farm of John Pat Lamprey and summer home of Gen. A. W. Greely.

1909, Nov. 1, John L. Lamprey's Grist-Mill.

1912, August, Home of John Sweeney, the old Moses James home.

1912, Old John Page place near Eastman's Corner, now home of Charles A. Evans, formerly of Stumpfield.

1916, Avard Milbury's home (S. P. Tuck place).

1918, October, Warren P. Lamprey's large barn, with 19 cows and 3 horses, burned. Amesbury Chemical engine saved house.

1920, E. Judson Blodgett's barn, by lightning.

1921, Old Hezekiah Blake home on Stumpfield burned, barn saved. Sold by Blake family around 1845 to Capt. Spalding, and by him to Charles A. Evans.

1925, Al Brewer's barn.

1933, Summer, Old Philemon Blake place burned, occupied at the time by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Armstrong and owned by the Armstrong family.

At a date I do not locate, the fine stand of buildings built by Joseph Tilton on Gove's Hill, at the time owned by a Mr. Hammond.

Crime and Death by Violence and Suicide

Oral tradition for a long time relates deaths of a community when they come from violence and suicide. This was especially so in olden times.

Kensington has suffered little from serious crime and has only one death from such, though another was attempted.

February 19, 1822 — John Wadleigh was killed by John Blaisdell. Blaisdell at the time was living in the "Pond Lily House" built by Capt. Winthrop Rowe's son on Exeter Lane. The two men had been cutting wood in Exeter for Rev. James Thurston, whose parsonage was opposite the present Whitefield boulder. They bought some drinks and filled a bottle and started for home, Blaisdell having bought a new axe handle which he needed. In a drunken fight Blaisdell hit Wadleigh with the axe handle and broke his skull. He then carried Wadleigh's body to a shanty, covered it with a blanket, and walked away backward stepping in the same tracks, to make it appear Wadleigh had himself walked in. He later aroused Jude Hall, the Revolutionary soldier, and he and Hall went to give Wadleigh aid.

The trial was at Exeter, local people attended, a pamphlet of the crime and trial was printed, and the matter was long talked about. Blaisdell served four years in Concord State Prison and learned the trade of stone-cutter, and after his release did excellent work and put in many underpinnings of Kensington buildings. The new Shaw Brick House on Shaw's Hill, the Brick School House, the present Grange Hall and the Sawyer cottage on Trundle-Bed Lane being among them. In the end he died by freezing when while drunk he crawled under the present Grange Hall instead of going to his house 50 yards away. When he put in the stone work on the building he left a space on the back end about two feet wide, so anyone could crawl under if need be — through this he crawled to his death.

Rockingham's Rambles, NEWS-LETTER of June 4, 1937, had a quite full account of the Blaisdell crime and trial.

Around 1840 came the attempt to kill his wife by Jonathan Tibbetts, who came here from Maine and married Hannah Cook, daughter of Betty Cook. Tibbetts was a hard drinker and abusive, and his wife left him at various times. On such an occasion, unable to stand his blows and anger, she took her little baby George in her arms and fled through the Dearborn Road to her kin at the Josiah Brown house, burned in 1896.

Tibbetts pursued her with his shotgun loaded with coarse shot. He entered the yard and demanded she return; Mr. Brown told him she should not go back to be further beaten up. Mrs. Tibbetts was stand-

ing with the baby in her arms at an upstairs window watching; suddenly Tibbetts saw her and fired both barrels. Several shot entered her body and three into the arm of the baby, but none were fatal.

Tibbetts was given a six years' sentence at Concord. After his release in 1848 he was badly injured in a premature explosion when blasting rocks. He had a large family which the town had to support and which cost the town over $2500 before they were self-supporting.

SUICIDE

The first suicide in town was that of Hannah Dow, wife of Philip, at the farm recently bought by Mr. Hallowell. Mrs. Dow was Hannah Griffin, brought up in the Orthodox faith. Dow was the son of a Quaker. There was difficulty over religion, both being regarded as renegades in matters religious by their respective families.

Mrs. Dow had a large family of children; two died from ordinary sicknesses, then in 1735 two died from diphtheria, another in 1736 and another in 1738 and two more in 1749.

Worn out and in poor health she took her life on July 23, 1753.

April 15, 1795, Capt. Nathaniel Gove, an old man with suicidal bent, defeated the attempts to prevent him, and hanged himself with a hazel-sprout.

1828, by drowning, Philemon Blake, age 25.

1833, William Palmer on Palmer Lane hanged himself in his barn.

1843, Dr. Joseph Osgood drowned himself, jumping down his well.

November, 1929, Arthur Towle took carbolic acid while temporarily deranged; he was 56 years of age.

Perhaps no town in the world has a record for suicidal death equal to Kensington, that of the family of Hon. Smith Lamprey. Mr. Lamprey was an active man, lived where Mrs. George Arthur Evans now lives, and was representative and then state senator. His wife committed suicide while sick, then his father, an old man, became deranged and starved himself to death. Then Mr. Lamprey committed suicide, as did his three sons and a brother. The entire seven members of the family, all from the same house. The following is an account of the family that first appeared in THE AMESBURY VILLAGER in 1872 and which was widely copied in other papers.

In Kensington, on the main road between Amesbury and Exeter, is a locality remarkable for the suicides connected with it. Some years ago an old and respectable gentleman resided there, having two sons. One of them removed to Maine, and the other built a house and settled by the side of his father, cultivating the ancestral acres, and was respected

by all who knew him. He was the representative from his town and the senator from his district and a man of character and influence everywhere. He had a wife and three sons. Confined to her room by sickness, the wife managed to obtain her husband's razor, cut her throat, and died. Of the three sons, one drowned himself, a second hanged himself, and the third committed suicide by some means, at the West. The husband and father, while on a visit to Boston, drowned himself. The old gentleman, his father, became deranged and starved himself. He left a will, which was contested, and his son returned from Maine to attend to the settlement of the estate. He was in Exeter one day to attend the Probate Court, apparently sane and well. He asked his counsel what was doing, and received answer that the adverse party would do all they could to break the will. Rising and buttoning up his coat, he responded, "Very well, then we will fight them," and going out he went directly to the river and jumped in. He was rescued, but shortly after succeeded in his purpose of self destruction. There were seven persons, all of one family, who in a brief space of time came to violent deaths by their own hands.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF AMOS ROWELL

I wrote a short article on this death in the NEWS-LETTER of Aug. 31, 1937. Rowell was player of second cornet, next to John Hodgdon in the old Kensington Band of 1850-1860, and went with all other of its members into the army. He became cornet soloist in the U. S. Band at Washington, of which Hodgdon was the leader, and the last bit of music to which Abraham Lincoln ever listened was Rowell's cornet solo, "Home, Sweet Home," which Rowell played as an encore at Ford Theatre the night Lincoln was shot.

Rowell was played out and sick, he came back from the war, he was seized and thrown into Portsmouth jail for non-payment of debts his wife had incurred, contracted consumption and died. Mrs. Emma Chase on her last visit to Kensington and Eugene F. Carter at the Brick School celebration last year, both told me of the sad funeral, and of his wife, stricken with remorse, throwing herself screaming into the grave as his body was laid to rest.

A frivolous wife, greed of a fellow citizen, cruel law, imprisonment, sickness and early death, were the rewards that awaited the young soldier who served at the front near three years. Verily such a death was supreme tragedy. His only brother was killed in action in the army.

CHAPTER 18

MEMORABLE STORMS, WIND AND SLEET, UNUSUAL YEARS, COLD DAYS, DROUGHTS, EARTHQUAKES

Earlier storms and cold winters were kept alive by oral tradition and references in old letters and in Town Records, etc. Later, citizens like Col. Jerry Poor and the late Weare N. Shaw kept diaries, as has the writer. From these various sources we note the following:

Big Snow Storms and Hard Winters

WINTER OF 1716-1717

Several families were located in Kensington in that most severe of all winters that New England has known since the white men came. A five foot storm came in mid-December and the cold held it without a thaw and other storms followed, the greatest in early February when four feet came. Snow was 20 feet deep in places where drifted and no attempt to break roads was made. What travel was made was on snowshoes.

WINTER OF 1739-40

This winter was much like 1716-1717, snow came in a big early December storm, and during winter 26 other storms came, without a thaw.

WINTER OF 1747-48

Heavy snow fall on Dec. 3 which remained without thaw for four months. Feb. 18-22 came a three day storm and four feet of snow.

WINTER OF 1856-57

This year a big snow and cold came early in November and there were 32 storms without thaw. Tom Aiken, then driving stage, drove 100 days on runners and was wont to say he was afraid to ride so high up when he changed to wheels.

SOME BIG INDIVIDUAL STORMS

Dec. 4-5, 1786, 4 feet on the level.
Nov. 29 - Dec. 10, " The Long Storm," 5 ft. fell.
Feb. 24-25, 1802, 4 feet on level.
Feb. 20, 1836, 3½ feet on level.
Dec. 18, 1839, 3 feet on level.
Jan. 17-21, 1867, 3½ feet on level.

March 11 and 12, 1888, 3½ feet on level, but bad drifts left 12 feet in places. This is the well known "1888 Blizzard."

Nov. 27-28, 1898, 2½ feet fell. This was when the steamer PORTLAND went down with all on board soon after leaving Boston.

March 2, 1916 and Feb. 20, 1921, were recent big falls of snow.

FREAK STORMS

Ezekiel Dow records three freak late snow storms, one in 1737 in April, and one May 9, 1741. The record of the latter reads:

> "In the year 1741, there was in my lot at the South End of my land by the Qneen's Bridge a snow bank 18 inches deep on the ninth day of May."

April 8, 1772, 3 feet fell and roads were broken out.

March 31 - April 1, 1865, a big storm and roads broken.

April 22, 1879, Piper's Hill packed with an 8-feet drift.

Wind and Sleet Storms

Kensington saw a great sleet and hail storm in 1847. John Piper had just come to the Dearborn farm and had 300 panes of glass broken.

May 7, 1853 another severe hail storm swept over upper Stumpfield.

May 31, 1878 came another freak wind storm. A heavy shower came up in late afternoon, wind came with it, a small cyclone, swept down from East Kingston through the pastures below Gove's Hill and into John T. Blake's and Joseph Poor's pastures, through Edward Brewer's wood-lot. Many acres of trees uprooted.

Sept. 1938, this recent hurricane that did so much damage did not strike Kensington as hard as the Massachusetts towns but trees were blown over in many places.

Freaks of Lightning

The writer recalls hearing the talk of three. One in 1878 in June, shortly after the big wind storm, the chimney at Daniel Russell Prescott's house was struck and Miss Lizzie, sitting on a sofa, was thrown sofa and all some 6 feet, but suffered no injury.

Another was several years later when Mrs. Augusta (York) Gooch was leaning against a sink washing dishes when lightning ran around the steel sink and cut away her apron strings and part of her clothing but did no serious injury to her.

A third was when lightning struck on the farm of Charles Titcomb and bored a hole from which ever after came an unfailing spring of water.

Cold Periods and Cold Days

My grandfather, Col. Blake, had a long list of coldest days chalked down beside his shoemaker's bench. Most such days came in January and February and some years I checked on the figures from the weather department in Boston and found that their figures since 1872 show 85 per cent of the cold periods do come in those two months.

I also found that in the same years March has a colder average than November.

Of the past 65 years the coldest days of the year have come once in March, 6 times in December, 32 times in January, 26 times in February.

THE COLD WINTER OF 1934

The winter of 1933-1934 had the greatest number of cold days of any winter of recent years. There were 36 sub-zero days between Dec. 11, 1933 and March 1, 1934. With glass reading of 26 below on Dec. 29 and of 28 below on Feb. 8.

THE COLD WEEK OF 1942

Thursday, Dec. 17, the glass read 14 below; the same on Dec. 18 and 10 below Dec. 19; Sunday, Dec. 20, some glasses dropped to 25 below; Dec. 21 was 22 below; Tuesday, Dec. 22, it was 14 below; Wednesday it rose to 4 below and the spell broke during the day.

COLDEST DAYS AT KENSINGTON

The coldest days at Kensington of which I can find trace are

Jan. 16, 1859, 38 below at Kensington and Exeter.

Dec. 30, 1917, 28 below at Kensington.

The Hottest Summer

Came in the recent summer of 1930. From mid-July to Aug. 10, all records since 1872 were broken.

The Unusual Years of 1780 and 1816

Back before all official records the unusual years were 1780 and 1816. Old diaries are full of the year 1779-1780. Starting in mid-November and lasting till mid-March was the coldest winter ever known. The late William S. Harris of Windham used to tell of the tradition of the winter in his family. His great, great grandparents were living in New Ipswich, N. H. and his great grandmother was a baby. They lived in one of the single story, two room homes with a blazing single fire-place. His great grandmother was placed in her chair as near the fire-place as

they dared, yet the spittle dripping down on her bib froze stiff day after day. Yet the little baby lived and died beyond 90 years of age.

That winter there was an unusual display of Northern lights, and snow stood four feet deep from mid-November to mid-March.

On May 19 of 1780 came the unusual dark day described below.

The old farmers of 1885 used to tell me of the story told them by their fathers or grandfathers of the cold year of 1816. The things were mixed up, January and February not too cold but March was as cold as February generally is and with April, winter seemed coming back. There was frost nearly every night in May and June. Ice formed one night in July. One farmer had corn up high enough to hoe in early June and next morning it was nearly buried under snow.

The following year, 1817, farmers had hard work finding seed to plant; some farmers paid $10 for a bushel of seed corn.

Much stock was killed in the winter of 1815 because of shortage of fodder.

THE DARK DAY OF 1780 AND THE YELLOW DAY OF 1881

The Dark Day of May 19, 1780 and the Yellow Day of Sept. 6, 1881 present phenomenons never yet explained, and which left a great impression on the people all over New England. There is account of an earlier Dark Day on Oct. 21, 1716, but the mention of it is scanty.

May 19, 1780, " Black Friday " lives not only in oral tradition, but in the files of newspapers and the diaries of the people of the day. Rev. Mr. Cutler of Ipswich wrote of it as follows: —

" We dined about two, the windows all open and two candles glowing on the table. The fowl went to their roost, woodcocks whistled as they do in the dark; frogs peeped; in short there was the appearance of midnight at noon-day. Between three and four o'clock there were flashes like the Aurora Borealis."

A newspaper describes the day thus: " The morning was overcast, cloudy and rainy; the rain ceased about nine, the clouds appeared, and the day darkened; the greatest darkness was about twelve o'clock, fowl went to their roost, people lighted candles, and to every appearance it was night. The darkness disappeared somewhat between three and four and there was a strong smell of sulphur in the air."

September 6, 1881, was the Yellow Day that old people well recall. I was a pupil at the East School, around 1 P. M. it grew very yellow, by 2 we could not see to study and the school was dismissed. This time as in 1780 the fowl went to roost, cows came to the bars, birds went to bed.

Searching old papers I find some thought that great forest fires in Canada a few days before was the cause of the phenomenon. Whether this was the cause I know not, but it struck fear to our child's heart and we scampered home from school, the mile and a quarter, in record time.

Historic Droughts

In the beginning in New England all got their living from the soil. As time has gone on there have been other ways to secure a livelihood but for the masses it has still continued to be raising food from the land.

This has meant close watch of the weather and especially of the rains during the growing season, without which growth is retarded so much. Thus from the first, men noted down any great length or lack of rain, From a Note Book kept many years I have gathered the following notes of droughts from the beginning in New England. The record is as follows:

1621, the summer saw 24 days without rain.
1630, " " " 41 " " "
1657, " " " 75 " " "
1662, " " " 80 " " "
1674, " " " 45 " " "
1688, " " " 81 " " "
1694, " " " 62 " " "
1705, " " " 40 " " "
1715, " " " 46 " " "
1728, " " " 61 " " "
1730, " " " 92 " " "
1741, " " " 72 " " "
1749, " " " 108 " " "
1755, " " " 42 " " "
1762, " " " 123 " " "
1773, " " " 80 " " "
1791, " " " 82 " " "
1802, " " " 23 " " "
1812, " " " 28 " " "
1856, " " " 24 " " "
1865, " " " 33 " " "
1871, " " " 42 " " "
1875, " " " 26 " " "
1876, " " " 26 " " "
1880, " " " 32 " " "
1882 — July 5 only between June 18 - Sept 21.
1941 — A very dry summer.

Benjamin Chase, the Auburn antiquarian, writing in the EXETER NEWS-LETTER of Nov. 12, 1880, said his well was dug in 1826 and never went dry till 1880, though very low in 1865, when the summer was dry all the time and no rain at all from Aug. 23 to Sept. 17.

The most severe of the droughts, as appear by other notes, were in 1762 and 1882. The record for 1762 says, no rain came between May 1 and Sept. 1. Friends in England sent hay and grain by vessels to New England. In 1882, which the writer recalls well, wells went dry and his father made a yoke to be able to bring two pails of water at one time from the spring.

There was also a very long dry time in 1865, but it came later than usual, from Aug. 23 to Sept. 17, there was not even a shower, according to an old Kensington, N. H. diary; and this followed a dry summer. The 1880 drought was uneven, some localities suffering more than others.

1941, there were a few very light rains in the summer but no rain of much consequence all summer. The dryest year since 1882 and many wells dry.

Earthquakes

The only earthquakes ever felt in Kensington of sufficient severity to be recorded were those of Oct. 29, 1727 and June 3, 1744. The chronicle is by Ezekiel Dow, first Town Clerk, in Vol. I of the Town records, it reads: —

> "June the third, it being the Lord's Day, there was a tremendous earthquake, the like of which I have Never Known in this Sentre (center) but once and that was of the night of Oct. 29, 1727, that night being the most dreadful my eyes ever saw or my ears heard."

CHAPTER 19
WHERE SLEEP OUR DEAD — THE GRAVEYARDS

" Here kindred lie, yet hermits all,
Hundreds, but each apart."

The Upper Yard
OUR EARLIEST " GOD'S ACRE "

When in early spring of 1732 the settlers on South Road and Stumpfield joined with eastern Kingston and petitioned for a new parish, to support their petition they raised the frame of a Meeting House this side the present East Kingston depot.

Drinkwater and Exeter Lane at once signed a petition of protest to the Assembly and had a raising June 25, 1732, when they raised a frame for a Meeting House on the knoll opposite the present Philbrick Pond.

The spring session of the Assembly in 1733 dismissed the joint petition of eastern Kingston and South Road and Stumpfield Kensington householders.

Then in September Elihu Chase gave the town one acre of land as near the center of the town between North and South as possible, as the direct center would be in Hog Pen meadow. That lot was at once called " THE MEETING HOUSE ACRE," and it was divided in three pieces: the small lot on which the Meeting House stood, almost where the present Universalist Church stands; " Meeting House Parade," where the road now is; " The Burying Ground," a small tract of about one-half an acre.

In 1894 I copied the stones in this yard and the first I found were " Throat Distemper " victims of that great plague that took its first toll in town in early June of 1735. If there were any burials in 1734 after the Meeting House frame had been moved in 1733 and boarded in and the first service held Feb. 2, 1734, then there was no stone or they were buried in Hampton Falls.

The earliest stones were on the high ground near the back end of the present Universalist Church and near the old Pound. I found four stones marked with initials, 12 marked with names and dates, and 22 flat stones unmarked in any way, but placed in rows to show that beneath them lay the children who had died that awful summer.

In 1744 the Parish bought a small tract of land from Obadiah Johnson and enlarged the yard; by that time at least 150 had died of diphtheria and their only markers were field stones. In 1773 another small tract was bought of Johnson and the yard again enlarged; by that time

many adult settlers as well as over 250 children had been buried in the yard.

The Upper Yard seeded in of pine around 1820 and when the Lower Yard came into use they were allowed to grow. During the Civil War the March meeting voted the Selectmen trim out the oak and maple, and again in Dec. 1873 the town voted that the Selectmen go through and cut down all pine trees that were not straight and clean. This made the yard in 1894 when I copied the stones, the most beautiful and quaint old yard in New England.

COPY OF DEEDS TO THE PARISH

(Deed for Meeting House Acre, including original yard)

Sept. 26, 1733

To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, I, Elihu Chase, sendeth greetings: —

Know ye, that I, Elihu Chase of Hampton in the Province of New Hampshire in New England, husbandman, for and in consideration of the Love and Desire which I have for the building of a Meeting House, have given and granted by these precepts, and do freely and fully absolutely give and grant to the Inhabitants of ye upper or westerly part of the fall's Parish in Hampton, one acre of land, where the Meeting House frame now standeth. That is to say, to begin at the south end of Abraham Moulton's land and to run Southerly 12 rods on the West side of the frame, and to carry the same width Easterly along upon the South end of said Abraham Moulton's land until it contain one acre of land, which I, said Elihu Chase grant and deliver unto said Inhabitants of the upper part of ye Fall's Parish aforesaid, so long as they continue a Meeting House upon said land, and no longer, they and their heirs, assigns, etc., to have and enjoy, etc. Signed ELIHU CHASE

Sept. 26, 1733

in the 7th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George — (Vol. 46, pp. 100-101, N. H. Prov. Deeds)

April 20, 1744 (Vol. 70, page 20, N. H. Prov. Deeds)

Obadiah Johnson, sold to the Parish, one half acre of land, for use as a burying ground in the Parish of Kensington, to begin at the South end of the present Burying Ground and run 2½ rods upon the Highway, then Westerly 8 rods, then Northward one rod, then Westerly and Northerly till it contain one half acre.

Obadiah Johnson

Nov. 30, 1773

Obadiah Johnson, husbandman, to the Selectmen of the Parish of Kensington sold 84½ rods adjoining the Burying Ground, bounded as follows: — Begin on the Highway at a stake and run N, 85 degrees West, 10¼ rods; N 24 deg East 8¾ rods; N 63 Deg East 8¼ rods; thence S 5 rods to Highway, thence 7 rods by the Highway, being all the land I have within the Burying Place fence.

Obadiah Johnson

The Lower Yard

The annual meeting held on March 12, 1828, voted to raise $100 for the purpose of purchasing a piece of land to bury our dead . . . said burying ground shall be for the use of the inhabitants of the town and their families.

The yard was bought in November and the first burials in it were in 1829. Under the provisions that inhabitants and their families be buried there, sons and daughters who had left town were freely brought back to be buried with their ancestors, and though the yard was laid out in solid lots, with no paths between lots, it was so filled in just 40 years that an article was put in the warrant to buy a new graveyard.

It was voted down but the idea came up various times and in the early "eighties" was almost an annual battle, and several special meetings were held.

The Burying ground was always near a church, and in 1828 when the Lower Yard was bought, the first Christian Meeting House stood where the second (now Grange Hall) was built in 1838.

DEEDS TO THE LOWER YARD

Nov. 9, 1828

For $48.00 for the sole purpose of a burying ground, 110½ rods of land, bounded as follows: Start at the corner of Winthrop Wiggin's land and go by the highway south, 13½ deg. east, 13 rods and 7 links to a stake and stone, thence westerly upon land of Josiah Prescott 8 rods, thence N 13½ due West for 16 rods and 16 links by my own land to aforesaid Wiggin's land, thence to point first mentioned.

Ezra Chase
Jane Chase

Before Theodore Lovering, J of P

Nov. 29, 1828

For $26.25, To the inhabitants of Kensington for the sole purpose of a burying ground, 56 rods, bounded thus — Start at a stake and stone at corner of land of Ezra Chase by the Highway from the Meeting House to Newburyport, run South 13½ Degrees East for 8 rods and one link, thence S 76½ Deg West 8 rods, to land heretofore conveyed to the Baptist Society, in part and in part my own land etc.

Signed, Josiah Prescott, Nancy Prescott

The Selectmen secured Squire Ira Blake to survey and lay out the yard for which they paid him $1.00; it contained 166½ sq. rods, slightly over one acre, and cost $73.25, being $26.75 less than the $100 raised and appropriated.

The Dearborn Annex to the Lower Yard

Burials began in 1829 in the Lower Yard but it was not fenced till 1830. That year a fence was put up which stood 58 years, a witness to the labor-power of older days. It was a stone wall, made of heavy stones moved into place with man strength, iron bars and oxen, and after being raised near three feet there was put upon the wall a heavy cap-stone, generally cut about eight feet by one foot broad and a foot and a half deep and weighing over a half ton.

This wall was so high as to hide all trace of the yard in back, and year by year till the decorating of soldiers' graves brought some interest in care of the graveyard, it was a tangled mess of briers, weeds and fallen headstones. The bushes were kept cut.

Finally the cap-stones began to fall off, others to become a twisted mass. So in 1888, George W. Dearborn, born on Stumpfield and a prosperous Philadelphia merchant, gave the town a good iron fence, which still stands. The fence was put up the week of Nov. 15, 1888. Mr. Dearborn then bought from Joseph Poor and Francis Hilliard a tract of land that adjoined the Lower Yard, some 3½ acres, and gave it to the town.

The gift of Mr. Dearborn put an end to the various town meetings that for four years had been held on the subject of the new yard.

Joseph Newell Healey, former representative, died in January, 1889, and was the first to be buried in the Annex. As it was not laid out he was buried at the right of the path as we entered.

The March Meeting, 1889, raised $500 to right the stones and cut the brush in the older part and to grade the newer part. After haying Stephen Sawyer, George Brown and the writer worked there several weeks cutting the brush and raising into straight line the stones in the older part, while Frank H. Poor, with hired help, graded the new section.

The following March, 1890, the town made an additional appropriation and the Annex was put into the present neat and beautiful graveyard.

There was discussion as to how the lots in the Dearborn Annex would be handled, in the meetings of 1890 and 1891, and at the latter it was voted to sell the lots at auction. Legal advice told the Selectmen this could not be done and the matter hung till Mar. 8, 1892, when the following action was taken:

VOTED to rescind the old vote in regard to selling lots in the new cemetery, and that lots be free to the town people.

VOTED that the Selectmen prepare a plan of the yard, and lots therein, and have care of the same.

VOTED that no lots be sold by parties taking them and then moving from town but that said lots revert back to the town.

In these three yards lay the bulk of our ancestors:

> "There rest the good, there they repose,
> After their years of toil. A sacred band,
> They take their sleep together, while the year
> Comes round with flowers to deck their graves.
> . . . .
> Theirs no vulgar sepulchre — green sods
> Are all their monument; and yet is told
> A nobler history than pillared piles,
> Or Egypt's eternal pyramids."

Family Graveyards

Before 1735 the people of Kensington buried their dead on their farms or took them back to Hampton Falls. The Greens, Tiltons, Weares, Prescotts, Goves, and Batchelders had family graveyards on their farms, which are still protected and have stones whose inscriptions can be read. But as the earlier stones had no inscription, we do not know how early they were used.

THE GREEN GRAVEYARD

All the Greens (they were Quakers) till the time of the late Stephen Green who died in 1890 were buried in the little graveyard on their farm, Stephen Green being the first of the Quaker parentage to be buried in the town cemetery. His father and mother, with their four children, his uncle John, aunt Mary, aunt Abial, and aunt Hannah are buried in the little cemetery. Miss Sarah Abbie Green writes: "In my childhood days there were small granite stones there. The Greens and the Dows of South Road were the last people of Quaker parentage to live in Kensington. Miss Sarah A. Gove is the last Quaker of the Seabrook Society. Her ancestors were Dows of Seabrook. Samuel Lamprey, with his wife and daughter, were buried with the Greens in their family lot in the Southwest corner of our field."

THE TILTON GRAVEYARD

John Tilton on the North Road, one of the original settlers in the town, established a family burial lot where all of his family were buried up until 1834. Jeremiah Tilton died in 1832, age 89, and his widow in 1834, age 87. They were the last burials in this cemetery. The farm is now owned by Alvah Brewer, but the cemetery is now the property of George O. Weare.

THE PRESCOTT GRAVEYARD

In the northeast corner of the field of the late Daniel Russell Prescott, now owned by Mrs. Crowell, was the private cemetery of some of the Prescotts. Robert Prescott, who died 1828, age 63, is buried there as is his wife who died 1853, aged 87.

THE BATCHELDER GRAVEYARD

In a field on the old Batchelder farm next to East Kingston line on the North Road, some early members of that family are buried. On the present farm of Frank Kimball are two slate stones over the graves of a son of the pioneer John Batchelder. The two stones read as follows:

" In memory of Col. Jeremiah Batchelder, who departed this life in 1818, age 77."
" Man's time is soon up and he is gone."

Mrs. Sarah Batchelder, relict of Col. Batchelder, died Dec. 24, 1823. age 83.

" Sweet is the memory of the dead."

THE GOVE GRAVEYARD

The Gove family on Gove's Hill have also a small family cemetery.

Dr. Jonathan Brown, Drinkwater Road, died 1864, age 58, and was buried near his house. His son, Addison R. Brown, was buried in the same lot.

THE WEARE-LOVERING GRAVEYARD

The Weare Farm contained 95 acres, 28 of which were in Southampton when it was sold to Theodore Lovering in 1833. The Weares had a family burying ground and after Lovering came there they also buried on the farm certain members of their family.

Harry Greenwood is the present owner of the homestead.

THE DOW GRAVEYARD

John Dow, just above the Weares, was a Quaker and his ancestors and some of his family are buried in the Quaker Cemetery in Seabrook. In his late life Mr. Dow's Quaker friends in Seabrook felt he was not sufficiently cooperative and objected to his being buried in the Quaker cemetery and he is buried on his farm. His only companion, for a time, was his granddaughter who died at around 12 years of age, but when his son, John Gustavus Dow, was buried with his wife's people in Portsmouth, this granddaughter's body was taken up and removed to Portsmouth.

THE EATON GRAVEYARD

Abraham Eaton, who came to the house built by Joseph Wadleigh, buried some of his family in a private yard on the place. Whether any Wadleigh was buried there before I am not sure.

Cecil Comfort has recently bought the homestead.

KENSINGTON'S QUAINT GRAVESTONE

Dr. Benjamin Rowe, who lived where Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dickingson now live, and who served in the French and Indian War, died in 1790. His son, also a doctor, was in the Revolution. I give below the newspaper notice of his death; the part relating to his sickness was copied on his gravestone, and has been many times copied.

DIED, March 28, 1790 at Kensington, Dr. Benjamin Rowe, Esq. age 70, and on Thursday last was decently interred. He was a physician much esteemed in all neighboring towns for his skill.

His sickness was long and remarkable. The Dropsy first appeared in June 1785, and on March 28, 1786, four years to a day before his death, he first underwent the operation of tapping and his death seemed at no great distance — but the operation was repeated from time to time. He enjoyed himself more comfortable in this manner and his life was prolonged till he had completed four years from the first operation.

He was tapped 67 times and the whole quantity of water drawn from his body was 2385 pounds.

CHAPTER 20

THE HOMESTEADS OF KENSINGTON

(Results of the Brown-Osgood-Folsom-Sawyer Study)

In no other town history with which I am familiar has so long and careful study been made to locate families and homesteads as has been made of Kensington. Asa Warren Brown started it in 1855 and worked on it many years. George Osgood, second, took it up and worked on it many years; near the end of his life he and I spent two summers checking conclusions and making notes; and since his death I have made further researches.

In these researches I wish to acknowledge my great debt to Mrs. Elizabeth K. Folsom of Exeter, who some 20 years ago went over the ground, secured much information, took photos, etc., all of which she has kindly passed along to me.

A Tribute to the Pioneer Settlers

To build a home and rear a family in some degree of comfort has been the major accomplishment of man and woman during the 40,000 years that we have walked erect upon the earth.

When the English settlers came here between 1620 and 1750 and displaced the Indians' wigwam with a substantial house and barn, and brought ideas and skill and tools and domesticated animals to provide comfortable living, then civilized life displaced barbarian life.

In all human history there is no chapter that can tell of such high purpose, noble ideal, heroic and sacrificing labor, and reverence for God, as is told in the chapter that tells of the settling of New England.

And in the chapter on the settling of New England there is no section reveals a people more fearless, heroic and God-fearing, than the settlers of old Hampton and its daughter-towns.

Kensington, one of those daughter-towns, was settled by young men and women for the most part, some even lads and misses, who were children and grandchildren of Hampton settlers, and who thus knew first-hand the rigors and hardships of a settler's life, and who brought here a willingness to labor and sacrifice, an ability to overcome obstacles, and a determination, with God's help to succeed, that has no superior and few equals in all the history of the human race.

Those hardy, God-fearing young men and women felled the forests, drained the swamps, built the roads, bridged the streams and harnessed their water-power, cleared the fields and meadows, fenced the pastures,

laid up miles of stonewalls, planted their orchards, to supply with food and comfort the substantial houses and barns they built for themselves and their domesticated animals.

Dull must be the mind and stolid the emotions of any man or woman who can ride along our roads, look over our hills and valleys, survey our fair town today, and not feel within himself or herself gratitude to God and ancestors who gave us this.

It was my privilege to be born and reared in Kensington when the people here were almost entirely the children in the fifth, sixth or seventh generation from those hardy settlers. Men and women who carried on in the spirit of their ancestors; whose honest hands were gnarled by hard work, whose shoulders were bent by years of toil, whose rugged, lined faces told of lives of wrestle with hard labor, in order to bring up their families, and leave them a home and substance when God called them.

True they were humble people, of the class of "Hewers of wood and drawers of water"; of the class that from ancient times have borne the burden in the heat of the day; but that is the class that has made human civilized life. Those who lived and toiled up to 50 years ago endured privations, overcame hard places, knew little of the comfort and ease of the life of today.

Grants and Land Divisions

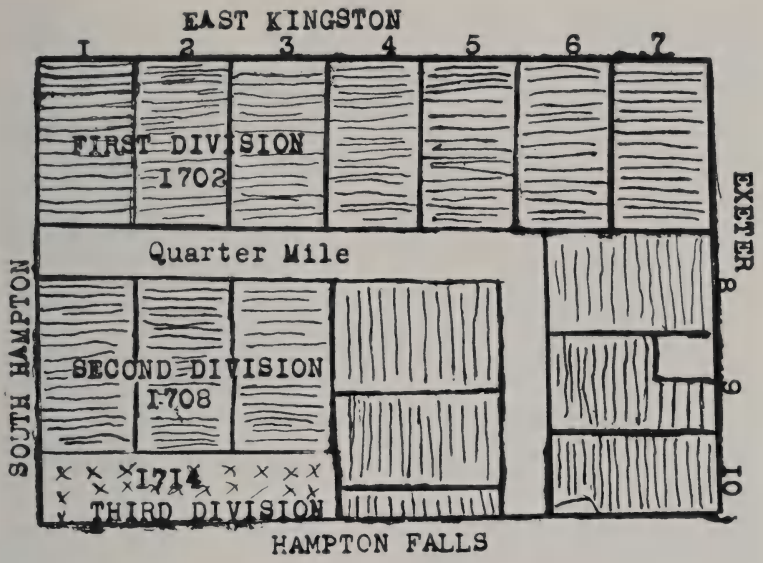
Hog-Pen Farm was granted to Rev. Seaborn Cotton in 1663. It was surveyed in 1669 and finally established in 1714. It was 194 rods square, running roughly from the Town Hall 194 rods to the present line between Eliza Evans and Alice Bragg, in length; and from a point near Town Hall to the foot of Gove's Hill, in breadth.

William Fuller grant was alongside Hog-Pen Farm, near the spring of Eliza Evans. John Fuller's house was on it in 1670.

Grassy Swamp (Great Meadows) was laid out to several families before 1700.

LAND DIVISIONS

While white men could settle on or till the land of Hog-Pen and Fuller Farms and make use of Grassy Swamp, there could be no general "taking up" of land till after the "Land Divisions" of 1702, 1708 and 1714 or 1715 — there are two records, 1715 probably right. These divisions divided among Hampton residents above 21 years of age, the land held in common, which in 1702, took in all of the present Kensington and exclusive of the marshes, about one-third of the land in the present Hampton Falls.



MAP OF THE THREE LAND DIVISIONS

THE FIRST WEST DIVISION of Hampton land laid out 7 ranges of 31 lots each, running along Kingston line, one mile deep toward Hampton. Lots were 10½ rods by about 180 rods and were called "half-shares". A total of near 2300 acres. At the foot of ranges 6 and 7 and running along Exeter line to North Hampton were 5 ranges, a total of about 1800 acres, one half in Kensington, one half in Hampton Falls.

THE SECOND WEST DIVISION was made in 1708. It left a quarter mile open land and then laid out another mile inward.

THE THIRD WEST DIVISION was made in 1714 and laid out the "quarter mile" and remaining land, most of which was in Hampton Falls.

Early Main Roads

Hampton people had three roads across what is now Kensington running to Kingston: Horse Hill Road, Hog-Pen Road, and Drinkwater-Ridge Road. After the town was incorporated in 1737 these were called South Road, Middle Road and North Road.

The earliest inventories and census enumerations begin on South Road and we follow that custom.

SOUTH ROAD HOMES

(S 1) THE BROWN FARM **Leavitt W. Brown**

Jonathan Brown, born in Hampton, Feb. 24, 1700; md. Joanna Abba Feb. 27, 1724, built his home 40 rods this side the Hampton Falls line. The house was taxed in 1726 and was probably built in 1724; he bought land in early 1724. The farm has always been one of the town's best farms and has never changed hands. The line of family succession has been: Jonathan, Joseph, Capt. Stephen, Deacon Stephen, Stephen, Leavitt, Doris M. The present house was built in 1788 by Capt. Joseph Hilliard near where John W. Lamprey built last year. Capt. Stephen Brown bought it of the heirs in 1790 and moved it here. It is now the home of Leavitt W., Alice (Merrill) Brown, and their daughter, Doris M.

(S 2) LONGFELLOW **House Gone**

About opposite the David Brown home stood a house occupied many years by a Longfellow family, descendants of Mary Longfellow, widow of Nathan, and great-grandmother of Gen. Joseph Cilley of Revolutionary fame.

The family was of the same family as the poet Longfellow. His branch went to Portland, this branch came to Hampton Falls and then here.

(S 3) BROWN-FISH **Ralph Milton Fish**

David Brown, son of Deacon Stephen, md. Ellen F. Hilliard. His father gave him one half the Hilliard house and it was moved across the road. In 1873 Mr. Brown bought the old middle road school house and moved it to his home for a stable. He had a raising of the large barn in 1886. Mr. Brown was one of the town's active citizens and the property at his death went to his son, Herbert E. Brown, who sold to Ralph B. Fish, whose son Milton now lives here.

(S 4) PIKE-WOOD-FELCH-BROWN-FISH "Glenwood Farm"
Ralph B. and Marian R. (Hatch) Fish

Joseph Pike of Salisbury settled here when married 1731. Aaron Wood of Andover bought the place of his son Robert 1785. The elder Pike was a clothier, had a fulling mill and his son Robert a saw-mill as well. Wood sold to Jacob Felch in 1809 and moved to Newmarket. Felch sold to Sewell Brown around 1720. Capt. Joe Brown, nephew of Sewell, came to the place when he married Mary Ann Weare, Nov. 25, 1825, and soon built the present house. John Page did the work, plus what Brown and his hired man aided. The house cost in labor and material $500. The place passed to Joseph Weare Brown, then to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Fish. Their son, Ralph B. Fish, is the present owner and has put in the modern fine improvements. (See cut on next page.)

(S 5) PIKE-WOOD-PAGE **House Gone**

Joseph Pike, son of Joseph, in 1763 built a small house near his father's. Wood sold it to Insley Page who in 1818 sold it to Felch.

S 4 — GLENWOOD FARM, Ralph B. and Marian R. Fish

(S 6) BROWN-EASTMAN-BROWN "Maple Leaf Dairy"
Henry W. Brown

On this spot Jeremiah Brown, brother of Jonathan, had a small house in 1737. He sold to Jeremiah Eastman soon after and moved to Saco, Maine. The Eastman family were an active family in town. His son Benjamin was several years selectman and tavern-keeper, as was his grandson, Nathaniel. Eastman's Tavern made Eastman's Corner a landmark.

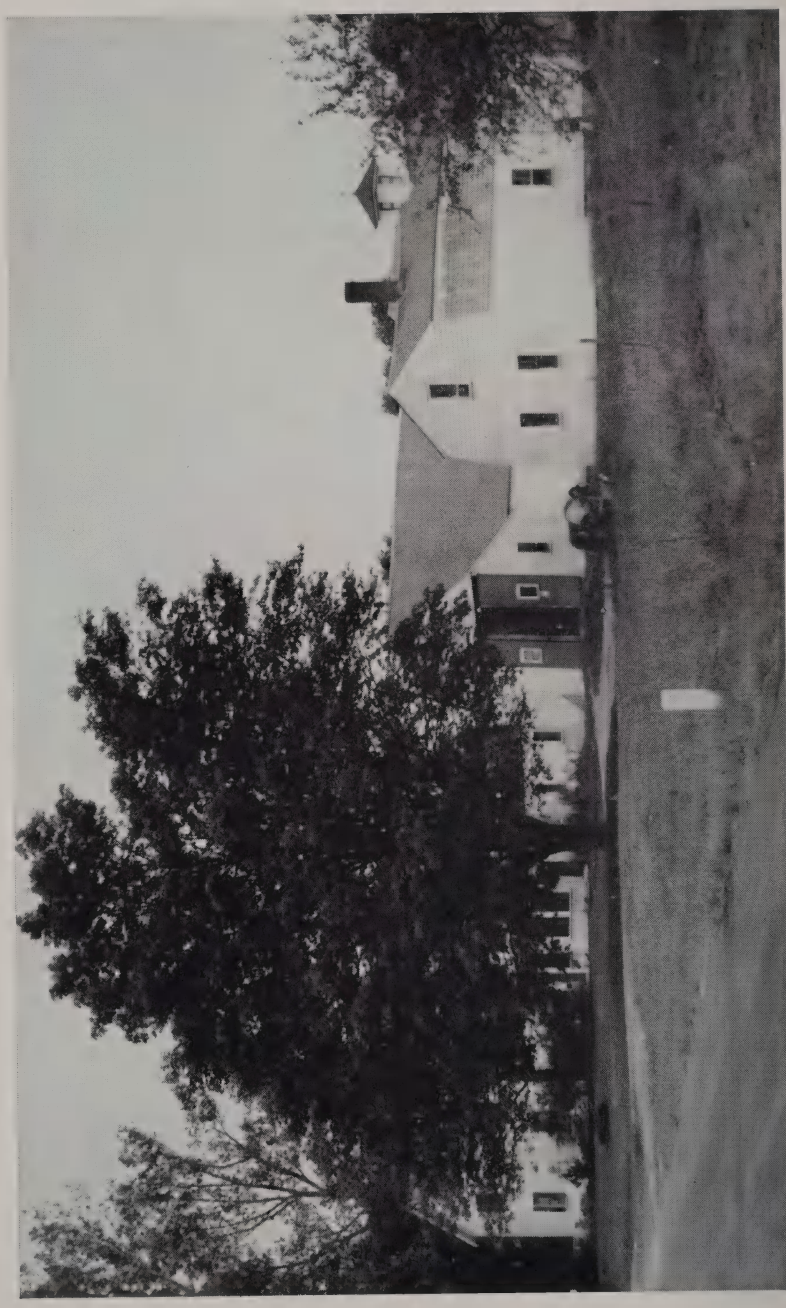
The late Oscar W. Brown married Sarah Eastman and his son, Henry W. Brown, now carries on a first-class dairy farm here. In 38 years his milk team into Amesbury has missed but one day. He has 76 customers who have been with him over 35 years. (Cut next page.)

(S 7) KENESON-STEWART-SWAIN-DOW **House Gone**

On the left, opposite "Maple Dairy Farm," stood a small house in which Joseph Keneson was living in 1760. Later David Stewart and Reuben Swain lived there and ran a blacksmith shop at Eastman's Corner. Caleb Dow was living there in 1790. A French family, "Dismaisey", also lived here.

(S 8) EASTMAN-BROWN-PAGE-EASTMAN
Charles R. and Helen (Evans) Eastman

Going left a quarter mile we find the home of Charles and Helen Eastman at old Salisbury Corner. Jeremiah Eastman of Salisbury built here in 1730. A few years later he sold to Benja Brown of So. Hampton. Later the Page family owned it many years. After several changes in ownership the present owner bought of Mr. Nelson in 1938. Thus Charles R. Eastman comes to the original home of his ancestor. The only mark of that original Eastman home is the outline of the cellar, and the well, showing some splendid stone-work of olden days.



S 6 — MAPLE LEAF DAIRY FARM, Henry W. Brown

(S 9) CARD **Charles E. Card**

Mr. Card built this house in 1860. It was first built on the other side of the road nearer Mr. Outwater, but soon moved here.

(S 10) CARTER **Dorothy Carter**

This cozy cottage was put up in 1942.

(S 11) GILL-OUTWATER "Kensington Silver-Black Fox Farm"
Howard and Blanche E. (Steeves) Outwater

John F. Gill bought land from the Page family and built this house in 1874. After his death various people owned it and Mr. Outwater bought in 1934. Mr. Outwater is sales manager of the Mystic Iron Works in Boston and has re-modelled the house and developed his hobby into the active fox-farm.

(S 12) PAGE-CLARKE-STEEVES
Harry L. and Gertrude (Evans) Steeves

Turning right at Eastman Corner the first home is where John Page built his house in 1816. His grandson Addison sold to Charles Wadleigh in 1887, who sold to Amos Evans in 1888. The house burned in 1912 when Charles Evans lived there. Mr. Clarke bought and put up the cottage. Deacon Steeves and his bride moved in on Sept. 7, 1937.

(S 13) PAGE **House Gone**

One hundred yards beyond on the same side stood the home of Samuel Page, who built between 1728 and 1730 and had his saw-mill below in 1732.

(S 14) PAGE-EVANS-BROWN **Everett W. and Evelyn R. Brown**

Opposite is where Insley Page in 1820 moved a house. Charles M. Evans bought and moved there another building. His heirs sold to Henry W. Brown, whose son lives there.

(S 15) EASTMAN **Otis H. and Inez A. (Locke) Eastman**

Up the next hill on the left is the home Rufus Eastman bought with his bounty money when he went in the army in 1862. It was once the Page Carpenter Shop. Selectman Otis H. Eastman, grandson of Rufus, has lived there 50 years.

(S 16) EASTMAN **Herbert L. and Pauline E. Eastman**

This pretty cottage home was built by Herbert Eastman, son of Otis, in 1924.

(S 17) PAGE-HILLIARD-LOCKE-GADDIS-BACHELDER
Arthur and Elizabeth (Evans) Bachelder

Samuel Page, son of Samuel, located here and ran his father's saw-mill below, and also built his grist-mill above. Capt. Joseph Hilliard bought around 1782. Joseph Noyes Peveare, Josiah Locke, Winkley and Francis Boardman also owned the place. William Gaddis (whose wife inherited the place from Mrs. Boardman) came here around 1884 and made and retailed soap for many years. He was born in England. Elizabeth Bachelder is his grand-daughter.

(S 18) EASTMAN **Howard C. and Amy F. Eastman**

A beautiful cottage put up in 1931.

(S 19) LOCKE-BROWN-JOHNSON-KEOUGH
Fred and Edith F. Keough

Oliver Locke (son of Josiah) built this house in 1825 and opened it as a tavern in Jan. 1826. Ten years later he sold to Capt. Henry Brown and bought the Franklin House in Scollay Sq., Boston. James W. W. Brown, Civil War veteran, lived and died here; his sons, Herman and Nedd, sold to Mathilda Johnson, who sold in 1943 to Mr. and Mrs. Keough.

(S 20) PAGE-PAYNE-HUFF **Richard P. Robinson**

Close to the road was the house built by Stephen Page. His granddaughter sold part of the old house and moved the ell back for a home for her sister, Abby (Page) Payne. Later George Hirsch and Eddie Huff owned the place. Mr. Robinson came there a dozen years ago and opened a gas-station.

(S 21) CHASE-WORTHEN-WILBUR
Harvey E. and June (Douglas) Wilbur

This house was built around 1860 for Abbie Chase by George A. Chase. He died 1863 and she went to live with her sister-in-law, Susan Chase, and rented the place. Stephen Sawyer lived there in 1874 when the writer was born there. Daniel Worthen bought the place and lived there 30 years. Upon the death of his widow Mr. Wilbur bought.

(S 22) PALMER-HOOK-ROBERTS-MITCHELL **Ernest E. Mitchell**

A part of the Palmer farm. Stephen Hook built here, later Zacheus Roberts lived here in a part of the Hook house, moved to where East School house was built 1873.

Mr. Mitchell built here in 1932.

(S 23) WOTOMUCK COTTAGE **Howard E. and Yvonne G. Beckman**

Our most recently built home, built 1944.

(S 24) PALMER-DAVIS-MITCHELL
Ernest and Yvonne E. (York) Charlton
Bert and Dorothy B. (Robinson) York

Joseph Palmer built here in 1784. His daughters md. a Hoag, and Stephen Hook, and a Felch. All lived here. John Davis came from Maine before the Civil War. His sons were George and James, the lat-

ter a Civil War veteran. Daughters md. Alexander Day, Dudley Brown and Ira E. Brown. William Mitchell bought in 1929 and remade the house and Mr. Charlton came here in 1940.

(S 25) PALMER-DOW-BOWEN
Charles E. and Jeanne (Monney) Bowen

This was the first Christian Meeting House, built 1813, and bought and moved here in 1838. Forty-four yoke of oxen were used in the moving. It was moved here by Widow Dorothy (Locke) Palmer, and after her death was the home of her daughter Almira, who md. Jeremiah Dow. When Mr. Dow died several parties owned it till bought in 1940 by Mr. Bowen. Mrs. Bowen was born in France.

(S 26) DOW-BECKMAN-ROBINSON-
Frank R. and Madaleine (Tate) Beckman

This was the Cock-Hill school house in Hampton Falls. Almira Dow wanted to be near her mother and moved it here around 1860. Around 1870 it was bought by Robert Beckman. George Robinson bought the place and his son, John H., lived here after him. Mr. Beckman bought in June 1943.

(S 27) EDWARD PALMER **House Gone**

Edward Palmer built a house opposite the Bowen home in 1726. For many years his was the only house and the road was called Palmer Lane.

(S 28) BECKMAN **George and Ada (Wilbur) Beckman**

This house was built by J. Arthur Beckman in 1905. His brother George came here in 1911.

(S 29) MITCHELL **New Cottage**

This house was built by William Mitchell in 1929.

(S 30) JORDAN **Alfred Jr. and Doris Jordan**

Built about 8 years ago.

(S 31) BECKMAN **Elsie Beckman's Cabin**

(S 32) JORDAN-AYERS **Alfred and Grace (Wilbur) Jordan**
Chester W. and Mildred (Jordan) Ayers

The house was moved here by Mr. Jordan from the Ward-Walton farm in 1917. The smaller house was built by Mr. Ayers.

(S 33) PALMER-CHASE-HARDY-BARTLETT-HULL
Percy W. and Edith F. Dunn

This house was moved here from the original Edward Palmer site. Later Stephen Chase and George Hardy lived here, as did James Bartlett and Charles Hull. Robert T. Brown bought of Mr. Hull and improved the house. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn came there May 15, 1936.

(BACK TO EASTMAN CORNER)

(S 34) MAJOR EZEKIEL WORTHEN **House Gone**

On the right, across the road near the lilacs, stood the home of Major Ezekiel Worthen, the town's first representative and an active man in early history. He was born Mar. 18, 1710 in Salisbury and came here and built in the spring of 1738. He was many years the town's most prominent citizen, a member of the Provincial Congress, and served in three wars, the King George War, the French and Indian War, and the Revolution. Samuel Copp Worthen, Esq., of East Orange, N. J. (President of the N. J. Genealogical Society and historian of the Worthen Family) published articles on Major Worthen in the GRANITE MONTHLY, May-June, 1917; Sept. and Oct., 1923.

(S 35) WORTHEN-FLANDERS-PAGE-CARD **William Fitts Card**

(S 35) Continued from cut on preceding page.

Lt. Enoch Worthen built this house around 1770. His children, Enoch Jr., Ezekiel and Eunice, never married. Tom Flanders bought in 1854. At his death, around 1870, Abel, George and Newell Page bought. Mr. Card bought in 1933. The barn, 72 feet long, had single plates, hewed from tall pine trees.

Lieut. Worthen was a son of Major Ezekiel, and like his father a leader in public affairs. He was in the Revolution and served 16 terms in the legislature and held other town offices. Four of his grandsons settled in Maine (" The Worthens of Palermo "), from which clan have come many prominent citizens of the nation, Hon. John E. Nelson, M.C. from Maine, being one, his mother being a Worthen.

Samuel Copp Worthen published in THE GRANITE MONTHLY, Jan. 1926, a quaintly humorous poem of Lieut. Worthen, written when the old Chain Bridge was built over the Merrimac.

(S 36) KNIGHT **James and Evelyn (Card) Knight**

The cottage on the side of Horse Hill was built in 1934-5.

(S 37) GRIFFIN **House Gone**

Philip Griffin had a house near the slate roofed house, built 1728 or 1729. Two brothers lived with him for a time. He sold to Ezekiel Worthen in 1758 and moved away.

(S 38) BROWN-PAGE-POOR **Frank H. Poor**

Abel Brown built this house in 1856 when the old house burned. The Pages owned it and ran a saw-mill there which burned around 1880.

(S 39) BROWN **House Gone**

Near the barn on the opposite side stood the original Brown house built by Jonathan Brown of So. Hampton around 1745, enlarged by his son Abel, father of Col. Abel.

(S 40) WARD-WALTON-BRODERICK **House Gone**

Up the private road on the right was the home of Shadrack and Noah Ward. They came there in 1724. Nathaniel Ward lived there in 1806. William Walton bought in 1836. In 1890 Daniel Broderick lived there.

(S 41) WARD **House Gone**

Abel Ward, a Quaker, had his house near his brothers.

(S 42) PURINGTON-GREEN-BROWN- **Mr. Temple**

Elisha Purington, born in England, came here in 1725. He died 11 years later, leaving Widow Phoebe (Swett) Purington with 6 small children. Eaton Green bought around 1800 and traded with Deacon John Brown in 1819. Emery Brown, his son, went to Ohio and the place was rented many years. Wyatt Tasker was there 10 years, and was followed by Joseph N. Austin till Asa Warren Brown, son of Emery, came back in 1893. He left in 1906 and since the place has changed hands often.

(S 43) LOVERING-COWAN-ROY-ROSE-ROSENCRANTZ

This house was built in 1857 by Eben Lovering. His children, Charles and Fanny, had the place. Fanny died May 3, 1881, and was buried in the yard of "Greenwood Manor". Charles lived alone till beyond 80 years of age. Van Cowan bought and sold to Mrs. Selina Roy, Aug. 15, 1923. Frank W. Rosencrantz bought this year.

(S 44) LOVERING-GREENWOOD "Greenwood Manor"
Harold B. and Agnes (Bristol) Greenwood

John Weare, brother of Governor Mesheck, built here in 1720. The old house stood east of the well. His grandson built this house in 1797, using a section of the old house for the ell. In 1835 Theodore Lovering bought the place for his two sons, each to have an end of the house and some 65 acres of land each. Harry Greenwood, the present occupant, was born in England and is an expert worker in wood, runs a shop and has done many expert jobs; of these was rebuilding the Colonial Meeting House interior at Danville.

(S 45) STICKNEY **House Gone**

Down the hill John Weare built in 1740 a house for his hired man, Wade Stickney. Stickney's two sons served in the Revolution. They finally moved to Newburyport and the house was sold and moved to Salisbury.

(S 46) DAVIS "Echo Park"
Arthur and Margaret (Douglas) George

Built around 40 years ago by A. L. Davis.

(S 47) NATHAN WEARE HOUSE **Frank C. Rosencrantz**

This house, built 1745 by Nathan Weare, has seen many owners. Richard Manning of Salem bought in 1799. Benj. Merrill bought 1809. He bought cattle and salted beef, shipping 1000 barrels a year till the War of 1812 ruined his business.

Jephtha Spalding bought in 1817; it went to his son Charles, whose widow was Polly (Brown) Spalding and rented the place to Calvin Sawyer of Plaistow, 1858 to 1868. Then to George Walton several years. Then George Keniston bought, then George Philips. Mr. Rosencrantz has been there near 20 years.

(S 48) TITCOMB-BADGER-KENISTON **Ralph Keniston**

Robert Titcomb bought 40 acres of the Weare farm and built in 1800. He built a store on the lot also. Jonathan Badger bought in 1848 and ran a blacksmith shop. His grandson is the present owner.

(S 49) DOW-FRENCH-BROWN-ROSENCRANTZ
James and Rachel (Swasey) Rosencrantz

Deacon Jonathan Dow was here in 1729. Moses French bought in 1805. His son's widow and two daughters, Ann and Lucy, lived here till their death. That part of the house standing burned in 1895 and with it Rev. Jonathan Brown, widower of Lucy French.

James Rosencrantz Jr. built the new house for himself and bride and moved in during July of 1941.

(S 50) DOW-EVANS-ANDERSON-WILBUR "Quaker Farm"
Edward and Alice (Simon) Wilbur

John Dow, Quaker, older brother of Martha (Dow) Connor and Hannah (Dow) Page, built here before 1730. His son John built the present house in 1766. John Evans later owned the place till it was bought by Mr. Anderson. Mr. Wilbur bought in 1944.

(S 51) BROWN-CLOUGH **House Gone**

William Brown built opposite John Dow very early, before 1709 and perhaps as early as 1702-3. He built a new house in 1724 and Nathan Clough who md. his daughter had the old one. His son, Ensign Brown, died young and his widow md. Nathan Tuck who carried on the farm.

(S 52) FITTS-FARRELL-PALMER

Charles S. and Dorothy (Palmer) Card

William and Jonathan Fitts of So. Hampton bought in 1836 and put up the present house, using a part of the old for the ell. The barn was built in 1842.

Lumbermen bought the farm in 1891 and sold to George and John Farrell, who sold 1898 to Daniel Ellery Palmer, and the place is now owned by the heirs of Mr. Palmer's widow, the late Martha (Brown) Palmer.

(S 53) FITTS COTTAGE **Miss Josephine Fitts Prescott**

Benjamin Abbott Fitts built this house in 1848. He never married. His nieces, Miss Josephine and Miss Elizabeth, and their brother, Charles Prescott, made the cottage their summer home for many years, and the first named now owns the place.

(S 54) PALMER **House Gone**

Jonathan Palmer, who md. the daughter of William Brown, in 1725 built a house down the hill on the right. His grandson Daniel built a stately new house and large barn in 1780. All buildings were burned in July 1898 by lightning.

The original house was used as a tavern from 1754 to 1764 by Stephen Palmer, the road then being the main road between Kingston and Hampton, etc.

(S 55) MAXFIELD-BROWN **House Gone**

Down the hill on the left Nathaniel Maxfield built a house in 1766. A family of 12 lived there in 1790. The Brown family bought and lived there till around 1840 when Benjamin Brown moved to Seabrook and the house was sold and moved away.

(S 56) HILTON-AUSTIN-SIMON "Queen's Bridge Cottage"
William G. and Geneva F. Simon

Abraham Hilton around 1850 bought 4 acres of Sewell Dow and moved here the Charles Hilliard shoe shop from North Road. "Newt" Austin bought in 1863. The place was rented by many families.

(S 57) BROWN-AUSTIN-SIMON "Queen's Bridge Farm"
Eugene F. and Alice Simon

Following an early custom of building their home by sections as the family grew, this house was built in two sections, the first in 1737, and the other later. Two and sometimes three families of Browns lived there at various times. In 1855 there was no male Brown living and able to work, Samuel Austin moved into one half to carry on the farm.

Later his sons, James and Joseph N., married two Brown girls. Frank Austin, son of Joseph N., sold to Eugene F. Simon of New York City in 1939.

(S 58) DOW-GOVE-GROETZ-HALLOWELL
Royal N. and Rowena W. Hallowell

Philip Dow settled here in 1729 or 1730. He built the present house before 1737, when he was taxed for two houses. Capt. Nathaniel Gove of Seabrook bought in Feb. 1767. Michael Gove built the present barn in 1856 on the spot of one of two smaller barns. Alexander Groetz bought of the heirs of Geo. Michael Gove, and sold to Mr. and Mrs. Hallowell in 1939, who came from Winchester, Mass., and who are busy improving their country home.

(S 59) DOW-GOVE **House Gone**

Nathaniel Gove moved the small Dow house back toward the hill and rented it many years. Michael Gove finally sold it to be moved away. The last to live there were an old man and wife by name of Tenney. Rough boys plagued them and made the place a nuisance. They moved over into East Kingston, where the rowdies followed them, and one night threw a rock through the window, killed the old man. Col. Jerry Poor was on the grand jury that indicted the culprit, while Jonathan Palmer was on the petty jury that acquitted him. The town sharply divided over the case.

(S 60) DAVIS-DRAPER-HILTON **House Gone**

Up Lovering Road on the right was a small farm where John Davis lived in a small house before 1737. He was ordered from town, but evidently did not have to go. Later a family of Drapers lived there as well, but both families left town around 1810 and sold to Simon Prescott.

Andrew Hilton of Exeter married Prescott's daughter and bought from Deacon Brown the original Purington house, used as an ell, and moved it here. His youngest son lived there till he was 70 when the part of the house standing was burned.

(S 61) HERDIE **Mr. Bartlett's Hen Pen**

John Herdie (Hardy) owned shares 2, 3, 4, 5, in First West Division, which he bought Nov. 10, 1718. He built in 1719, 300 yards above the present house, which was moved and is now Mr. Bartlett's hen pen.

(S 62) LOVERING-BARTLETT-LETENDRE
Roger and Grace Letendre

Ebenezer Lovering, son of John of Drinkwater, bought the Herdie farm, and in 1756 he and his father put up the present house. The family lived here till around 1900. The house has the only remaining "Lazy Susan" swivel table in its "scullery" to be found in town.

(S 63) TOPPAN **House Gone**

On one end of Lot No. 1, James Toppan built his house, near Tappan's Corner in East Kingston. In 1755 it was owned by Benj. Morrill who gave it to his son Moses.

(S 64) TYRILL **House Gone**

On the other end of Lot. No. 1 Gideon Tyrill (Tyrell) lived. He was a cooper and made a path with his shavings. He died young and his widow married again and moved away. The Morrill family bought the land.

(S 65) PAGE "Page's Corner" **House Gone**

Theophilus Page, Quaker, built on the crest of the hill up Clifford Ridge, before 1731. The Corner is called Page's Corner.

(S 66) STEPHEN ROWE BROWN **House Gone**

After the old Page house went down Mr. Brown bought an old house and moved it to the site. Around 1880 Henry Shufeldt bought the place and was the last to live there.

(S 67) PAGE-VEASEY-HULL-TUCK-WILBUR
Earl H. and Nancy J. Wilbur

Stephen and Micajah Page, grandsons of Theophilus, built a double house here. Micajah moved to So. Hampton and sold his half to Levi Veasey on March 6, 1811. Veasey was a cooper on vessels between Newburyport and the West Indies. He later bought the other half. The old house went down but from the lumber Richard Hull built the present house. Moses Tuck bought from Hull and later sold to Moses Wilbur, whose son Earl now owns the place.

(S 68) GARDNER GREEN **House Gone**

Gardner Green bought part of a Page house down on the Muddy Pond Road, and moved it to land he bought from Stephen Page's heirs. He later sold it and it was moved to near White Corner in So. Hampton.

(S 69) CLIFFORD-BACHELDER-SMART-GROETZ
Valintino Rizzo - Henry H. Burrows

This is the new Clifford house, last owned by Oliver Clifford and sold in 1878 to Samuel Bachelder of Hampton Falls. Mr. Groetz bought in 1939 and sold to the present owner this year (1943).

(S 70) CLIFFORD **House Gone**

Above stood the original home of Samuel Clifford, built in 1713 or 1714. He was the first settler on the Ridge.

(S 71) THOMAS BROWN **House Gone**

Thomas Brown, brother of Ebenezer and Josiah, was here when the town was set off in 1737. Around 1760 he sold to the Clifford family, so that they owned all land from Page to Cass.

(S 72) HODGDON **David F. and Lillian M. Hodgdon**

On the right is the recently built cottage home of Mr. and Mrs. Hodgdon.

(S 73) CASS **House Gone**

Jonathan Cass settled and built on the Kingston line before 1730. He died young. His widow Tabitha moved to Kingston and got a pension as Jonathan was at Louisberg. He was the ancestor of Lewis Cass, born at Exeter and candidate for president against Daniel Webster.

(S 74) CASS-CLIFFORD-MARTIN **House Gone**

A second Cass house was on the right. It was bought by Capt. Joseph Clifford, and later sold to Moses Martin. Martin's daughter, Lucinda, lived her life there after his death. The old house going down bit by bit while she retreated, at last living in one room and her geese and cow in the other.

(S 75) EATON **House Gone**

SOUTH ROAD went half way through the present West School Road. Just beyond the Large Rock on the left was a small house moved there by Abraham Eaton, who lived there many years with his family of children and his second wife.

(S 76) WADLEIGH-EATON-HODGDON-VAUGHN-COMFORT
Cecil A. Comfort

Joseph D. Wadleigh bought 11½ acres of land from Samuel Dearborn in 1816 and built the cottage home that sits back from the road. He was a carpenter. In 1832 Caleb Brown sold his Stumpfield home to Levi Tilton of East Kingston and bought the Wadleigh place in 1833. He sold to Abraham Eaton in 1837. Eaton bought additional land and in 1862 conveyed the place to John L. Eaton. After John Eaton died, Mrs. Georgiana Hodgdon and her mother, Mrs. Kesiah Cook, and her son David, lived there several years. Later Walter E. Vaughn owned the place and sold in 1941 to Cecil A. Comfort of Exeter, who moved here on June 18, 1942.

(S 77) HAND **House Gone**

A half mile beyond the West School House was the home of William Hand around 1830. He died young of consumption and his widow moved away. The house either fell down or was moved away.

(S 78) SAMUEL PAGE **House Gone**

Starting down the Muddy Pond Road, on the right stood the home of Samuel Page, son of Theophilus. He owned lots 79, 80 and 81 in the First Division. His spinster daughter lived to a great age and was called "Aunt Patience." After her death the house was bought by Gardner Green and moved up the hill.

(S 79) DOW-MORRILL **Eddie Morrill**

Ezekiel Dow, first town clerk, first school-master, built this house in 1725 and 1726. It remained in his family near 170 years. The Evans family owned it for a time and sold to Eddie Morrill who has lived there for several years. The first school in town opened here in 1738.

(S 80) GRAVES **House Gone**

Just below the Dow House by the private way to Stumpfield in early days was the home of the Graves family. They were Quakers. John was here before 1730. His father lived with him in old age. He died 1757 leaving his son Jacob, age 21, and two minor sons who were taken by John Marston.

(S 81) CONNOR-WEYMOUTH "Connor Hill" **House Gone**

George Connor, a Quaker, was here around 1725. His wife was Martha Dow, sister to John, also a Quaker. He had a large farm but his sons were not ambitious and sold off much land in old age. Lucy Connor who married John Weymouth was the last of the family there. Her husband died in 1859, and she made a living in part by selling rum till she died, and was widely known as "Lucy Marm."

(S 82) DOW **House Moved to Amesbury**

Up Muddy Pond Hill and opposite the pond stood the home of another Dow family. Nancy Dow was the last to live there, and after her death the house was sold and moved to Amesbury.

"MUDDY POND POULTRY FARM"

(S 83) DOW-MACE-BLAKE **John P. Blake - Howard A. Blake**

This was the Nathan Dow house, built in 1852, and sold by Henry Dow (who went to Exeter and opened a shoe store) to Dan Mace. For many years it has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Blake, who have been married 61 years. Their son, Howard A., now runs a modern poultry farm on the place, having over 3000 fowl.

Madeline D. Blake (Mrs. Howard) is the well known teacher of the piano.

(S 84) FELLOWS-PRESCOTT-ORDWAY-TILTON-NOYES

Ralph Noyes

Isaac Fellows came to this site in 1722. He md. Abigail Sleeper Nov. 21, 1721; they had 10 children; he died 1773. The family sold to Samuel Prescott Nov. 6, 1786. Robt. Prescott lived there many years and sold to the Ordway family. Jerry Tilton of Gove's Hill md. an Ordway for his second wife and came there, and built the present house, some 60 yards nearer the Beaver Dam than the old one.

Several families owned the place after Jerry Tilton died. Mr. Noyes bought and moved here in 1941.

(S 85) PEACOCK-SAWYER **Roland D. Jr. and Louise Sawyer**

This was a " made-up " house by Hyla Peacock at the close of the Civil War. The main section was a part of the old Brown-Peveare house and is very old. The kitchen ell is the Paul Ordway shoe-shop and the back ell Hyla's first home moved from over the hill. Rev. Roland D. Sawyer bought the property from the Hyla D. Peacock Jr. estate in 1934, and it is now the summer home of his son, Roland D. Sawyer, Jr., a master at St. Mark's private school in Southborough, Mass.

(S 86) RAMSDELL **House Gone**

Over the hill toward South Road, on the left, stood a small house built by George Ramsdell, after he married Sarah Johnson, and in which he lived till he went to War. After the war he lived there a while and then went to Newburyport.

(S 87) RAMSDELL " Utah " **House Gone**

First on the right, and then moved across the road, was a small house in which Eben Ramsdell and his wife " Vina " lived from around 1830, to their death. They were hard working people and had 6 children, 5 girls and their son George. Mrs. Ramsdell was Levinia Roberts from Seabrook, sister of Zack and Jesse of Home 21. A small active woman, she perhaps did more hard work than most women in town and was called " Aunt Vina."

She worked out for 50 cents a day washing and scrubbing, and if anyone was sick she acted as nurse, especially if the sick person were poor or a transient.

" None but the poor pity the poor;
Only those who have little
Give to those who have less."

Hyla Peacock, brought up by the Shakers, left them when 21, and came into town selling books. He was taken sick and the selectmen sent him to " Aunt Vina." She took care of him. At that time her

five girls were in their late "teens." The old folks were fond of nicknames. They knew above all that the Shakers were celebates in matters of sex, and they joshed Hyla for leaving the Shakers for "Old Eben's five daughters." So when Hyla built his little house, making three houses in the settlement, he was called "Brigham Young" and the locality was called "Utah."

In the decade 1875-1885 Hyla had moved over the hill, George had moved to Newburyport, Eben and Vina were dead, and what remained of the buildings was a patched-up little house where lived Mark Cilley and his wife, Harriet (Ramsdell) Cilley, till the place fell down. Mark died and Hattie became housekeeper for Hyla.

MIDDLE ROAD HOMES

Hog-Pen Road (Middle Road) was voted when the farm was given Mr. Cotton in 1663; it was laid out and used in 1669, and improved in 1714.

OUR NASON'S HILL NEIGHBORS

The farm of Kensington Lampreys ran to Nason's Hill, and Samuel Lamprey built the present Ladd house in 1814. Opposite, where Richard Nason has his summer home, stood for near 100 years the original Richard Nason house, built at the foot of the hill, near Kensington line, in 1731; and moved to the top of the hill by 114 yoke of oxen.

At the right of the road at the bottom of the hill stood the home of Nathan Brown, who married Huldah Nason; and also the home of David Chase.

(M 1) DOW-STEVENS-CARTER **Mrs. Myrtie P. Carter**

The first house on Dow Lane was built by Benjamin Dow in 1780 and enlarged to its present size in 1795. Benjamin's son Newell carried on the farm, then came Charles C., who died 1885. Henry, Will and Fred, "Dow Brothers" of the decade 1880-1890, sold milk in Amesbury and had a successful farm. Their sisters, Nellie and Minnie, looked after household matters. Minnie married Eugene Janvrin of Hampton Falls and still lives there. Nellie married Wilbur K. Parker and was drowned at Hampton Beach, July 4, 1898. Mr. Parker sold to Al Stevens, who after some years sold to Mrs. Carter.

(M 2) DOW-ROBIE **Charles N. and Carrie E. Robie**

This is the old house built in 1744 by Josiah Dow. His grandchildren, Benjamin and Nancy, lived here all their lives. Norris L. Robie who married Sarah Dow came here to live, and his son and daughter live as did Benjamin and Nancy, the quiet, peaceful, religious life of the country. A younger son of Norris, Alfred, died many years ago.

(M 3) HENRY LAMPREY **House Gone**

The Lamprey family owned land from Nason Hill to Lamprey Corner. Henry was the pioneer settler. Born Feb. 25, 1701, he married Esther Palmer May 22, 1728, and came here the same year. She died 1757 and he married, second, Widow Abigail Dow. His house is gone.

(M 4) LAMPREY-TRAFTON **Walter R. and Grace D. Trafton**

The double house was built by Deacon John, grandson of the pioneer, in 1790. Deacon John was a noted man among the farmers. At 88 he mowed on the marsh and walked both ways. At 90 he worked out by the day beside his own work. He walked to Portsmouth and back in 1768 to see Ruth Bly of So. Hampton hanged. His son John L. inherited the farm, and his widow Olive lived beyond 90. Sarah Jane and Emily, unmarried daughters, lived here their quiet lives.

(M 5) LAMPREY-TRAFTON **Walter R. and Grace D. Trafton**

Warren P. Lamprey, son of John L., married Lucy Jane Wadleigh in 1868 and built the new house. Their children, all living, were born here, Anna Marshall, Howard L. and John W.

(M 6) BROWN-HILLIARD-DODGE-LAMPREY
John W. and Ethel (Blake) Lamprey

Ebenezer Brown built here in 1724. Capt. Joseph Hilliard bought in 1780 and later bought the Page mills. He died suddenly in 1790 and a new house he had built was sold by his creditors to Capt. Stephen Brown. His widow married a Dodge. She died 1839 and the Lampreys bought the farm. John W. Lamprey kept the Dodge farm when they sold the rest to Mr. Trafton and put up the new house in 1941.

(M 7) BAILEY'S COTTAGE **Lawrence E. and Marie Bailey**

Mr. Bailey built this cottage in 1937.

(M 8) TUCKER'S CABIN **Arthur Estabrook**

Mr. Estabrook built in 1938.

(M 9) LAMPREY **Samuel L. Lamprey**

Samuel L. Lamprey built a new house at the corner before the Civil War. After his death around 1885 it was sold to George Sherburn and moved to Great Hill in Hampton Falls.

(M 10) LAMPREY-LEAVITT-EVANS "Pine Grove Farm"
House Gone

Gilman Lamprey and his brother-in-law, Benjamin B. Leavitt of Eastport, Maine, built here in 1824. Between 1860 and 1900 John Pat Lamprey and his wife, Mary L., lived here and were active in town. Mrs. Lamprey took boarders, and Gen. A. W. Greeley, the Arctic Explorer, came there several years in August.

George Arthur Evans came here from Amesbury in 1900. The house burned in 1908.

(M 11) LAMPREY-CHASE-EVANS
Mrs. Clara J. and Arthur C. Evans

Samuel Lamprey built this house around 1785 and gave to his son, Hon. Smith Lamprey. After seven members of Smith's family committed suicide the heirs said the place was "cursed to the Lamprey family" and sold for $400 to George A. Chase, a blacksmith. Chase married Susan Wadleigh of Drinkwater Road; he died young leaving her with four girls, the youngest, Kate, only four months old. With rare courage and judgement Mrs. Chase carried on her farm and reared to be useful women, the four daughters, Aimne, Abby, Sadie and Kate. George Arthur Evans bought in 1908.

(M 12) MAJOR JACK BROWN **House Gone**

Down the hill on the left lived Major Jack Brown. He died around 1865 and his wife and her sister lived there many years. Stephen Green bought the land and Mary Lamprey bought the house and moved it to her place.

(M 13) DRAPER-LOCKE-FLANDERS-BROWN-DOW-HILL-
"Rocky Ridge" **House Gone**

Joseph Draper bought Rocky Ridge, which runs through to the East School, in 1737. He built on this end. In 1758 he sold the house and 1½ acres to Timothy Blake Locke. Locke sold in 1769 to Jonathan Flanders, blacksmith. Flanders moved to where Horace Evans lives and sold to Nicholas Brown, who sold to Robert Dow.

Thirty years ago Harry Hill had a cabin on the road end of the Ridge. He was an Englishman and went back to England when he became old.

(M 14) JOHNSON-FLANDERS-BADGER-EVANS
Horace O. and Martha (Philbrick) Evans

Obadiah Johnson conveyed to his son Enoch, this place with house in 1773. The next year Enoch sold to Jonathan Flanders. Jonathan Badger of Amesbury married Judith Flanders and had the place. Then came his son Parker, and then Sidney C. Chase, who married Mary Emma Badger. Mr. Evans bought the place in 1925.

The home has now a semi-official character, for it is the home of Mrs. Martha (Philbrick) Evans, the first woman town-clerk in Kensington.

(M 15) GREEN **Houses Gone**

John and Benjamin Green, brothers, with their brother-in-law, Edmund Johnson, cultivated land here, and also Hog-Pen Farm, around 1714. They had a Garrison House on Peveare Hill, where they kept tools and horses or cattle and lived themselves at certain seasons.

Around 1720 they put up a frame house on the right of the road nearly opposite the spring, and back of which is the family cemetery, for they were Quakers.

(M 16) GREEN-HOUSE and SHOP-PALMER

Nathan Green house, built 1815, home of George W. Green, blacksmith, lived when first married and where his oldest children were born, and his shop. Hon. John W. A. Green was born while his parents were living here.

The shop, bought from G. A. Chase about 1870, has been made over into a cottage, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dollen.

(M 17) GREEN-PALMER D. Everett and Beatrice (Evans) Palmer

Green-Palmer Farm continued from preceding page

This farm with its two houses remained in the Green family for over 200 years, then Sarah Abby Green sold to Mr. Palmer, in 1927. The first house up the hill was built by the first Stephen Green in 1815, and since 1870 has been rented to many families. The second house, where Mr. Palmer lives, was built by Nathan Green in 1806, on one end; with the other end added by Stephen Green in 1861. The barn was built in 1800, down the hill, and moved up in 1806 by 84 yoke of oxen.

PEVEAR LANE AND HOG-PEN SCHOOL

As we turn up the now abandoned road sat one of the small school houses, built 1774. On top of the hill and at the further end stood three houses, as noted below:

(The entrance to this overgrown Pevear Lane was in the past an important corner. At the left stood the town's first little red schoolhouse; 100 yards to the right stood the original home of Edmund Johnson; and here was to be located the RR depot on the Exeter-Salisbury RR, by vote of the town in 1869.)

(M 18) GREEN-JOHNSON **House Gone**

Some member of the Green family had a small house which in 1790 was the home of Josiah Johnson.

(M 19) BROWN-GREEN-PEVEAR **House Gone**

Benjamin Brown built at the further end of the road. His son Enoch sold to David Green, who sold to S. Noyes Pevear. Around 1865 the last of the Pevear family left and Hyla Peacock bought a part of the old house and moved it to Beaver Dam, now the summer home of Roland D. Sawyer, Jr.

(M 20) CHASE-SULLIVAN-HOBBS-BREWSTER

Moses W. Brewster

David Chase had a house here in 1790. Ezra Bailey Chase in 1844 built the present cottage on the site. Widow Olivia Sullivan of Exeter bought in 1861 and sold to James Hobbs in Dec. 1864. John Brewster of Amesbury bought in 1890. His youngest son is the present owner.

(Back on Main Road)

(M 21) JOHNSON-SHAW-HEALEY-EVANS- "Maple Grove Farm"
Mrs. Eliza J. Evans and Mrs. Eunice (Evans) Morgan

Edmund Johnson, who married Abigail Green, built here on the west side of the road around 1720. His son Obadiah built the other side of the road before 1732. Obadiah Jr. sold to Rev. Napthali Shaw in 1794 and his house was moved to Johnson land at the foot of Trundle Bed Lane (now home of Hiram Prescott and wife).

Joseph W. Healey bought the Shaw Parsonage (built 1795) around 1812, and the heirs of his son, Joseph Newell, sold to Moses W. Evans in 1890. His widow and daughter now own the place.

(M 22) JOHN FULLER **House Gone**

John Fuller's house, built before 1671 near the spring, was the next building and the first home of a white man in town. It was down in 1714.

(M 23) HILLIARD-BRAGG "Sunnyside Farm"
Mrs. Alice and Miss Irene Bragg
Clarence W. and Doria C. Bragg

Joseph Hilliard bought a small house from Stephen Page and moved it here in 1845. Clarence Bragg of Amesbury bought it in 1891 and enlarged it. Recently his son Clarence had added to it, making it a double house.

(M 24) MRS. MARGARET LORD

The cottage on the left was built recently by the late Ernest Lord and is the home of his widow.

(M 25) GREEN **House Gone**

Back of Mrs. Lord's an old road ran to the spring, where Jeremiah Green built his house before 1737. His sons, Abraham and Jonathan, were living there in 1790.

(M 26) POOR-HILLIARD-FERRIN **Ferrin-Sargent**

Col. Jerry Poor built this house around 1860. His nephew, Abram Hilliard, came here in 1880. Abram's brother Everett lived there several years after he retired from business in Lynn.

Fred Ferrin bought in 1928, and with his wife Alice, and his daughter and family (Raymond W. and Geraldine C. (Ferrin) Sargent) now live there.

It was a part of the Jeremiah Green farm, whose 1722 house stood by the spring, half way up the hill on the opposite side of the road.

This is the site on which the trustees wished to build the Phillip's Academy, later located in Exeter.

(M 27) LOCKE-STUART-BLAKE-WARNER Esther Blake Warner
Timothy Blake Locke owned land here with a small house, which he sold Feb. 10, 1778 to David Stuard (Stuart). Stuart built the present house in 1780, and his heirs sold to the Blake family in 1805.

BLAKE-WARNER STORE
Ten members of the Blake family had a store in the shop that burned 1894. Mary Esther (Blake) Warner built in the spring; since 1912 conducted by her daughter, Esther Blake Warner.

(M 28) LOCKE-ROWE **House Gone**

The small house where now stands the Sawyer-Blake house, that was there when Locke owned, was standing in 1823 and occupied by Widow Rowe.

(M 29) BLAKE-SAWYER

Thomas H. Blake and Phoebe M. (Blake) Sawyer

In the decade 1835-1845 Col. Blake built this double house for his men working on boots at his shop. During the Civil War his son Thomas came to live in one side, and in 1875 his daughter Phoebe M. and her husband came to the other side. Harold Blake, grandson of Thomas, and Roland and Wesley Sawyer now own the place.

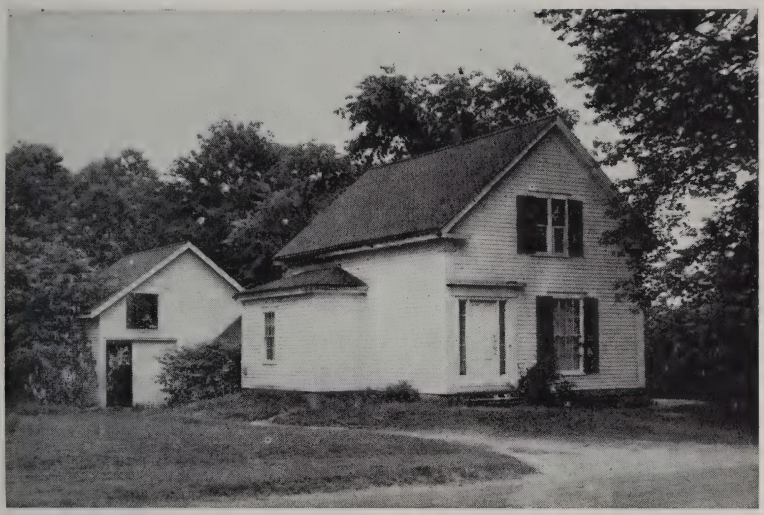
(M 30) FOSTER-WALTON-TOWLE Howard M. and Nellie E. Towle

A Foster family lived here many years. The old house finally went down. Around 1854 George Walton built a barn here and later the house. Howard Towle bought the place 40 years ago and has run a blacksmith and later wood-working shop near by.

(M 31) JOHNSON-HILLIARD

Nellie Hilliard and Hiram and Marion (Hilliard) Prescott

Around 1795 Widow Johnson moved a building here and added to it, and opened a store. In 1827 Jonathan Hilliard bought the place. His son Francis, who was an active man in town, built an addition and hall, made boots and after the Civil War opened a store and was appointed postmaster in 1867. He retired in 1900 and died 1908. His son Wendell died in 1935 and the place went to Wendell's living sisters.



(M 32) BETSY HILLIARD "Congregational Parsonage"
Rev. Oliver C. Northcott

Betsey Hilliard, who had lived in Cambridge, came back to Kensington and built this house in 1860. She was a single woman, liked the country and solitude, and would sit by the door and smoke her long pipe by the hour. The Congregational Society bought the place for a parsonage.

GRANGE HALL — Opposite the Parsonage is Grange Hall, formerly the Christian Church, built 1838.

KENSINGTON SOCIAL LIBRARY, built 1894-5, stands beyond the parsonage.

(M 33) HILL-COOK-WIGGIN-PERKINS-HILLIARD Frank H. Poor

Jonathan Cooper Hill, who married Dorothy Shaw of Stumpfield, moved a house here in 1788. He sold to Thomas Cook, Revolutionary soldier, soon after, who after a few years sold to Winthrop Wiggin, another Revolutionary soldier. Green Perkins lived there next, and then Rufus K. Hilliard moved here. His daughter Josephine received the place and Mr. Poor bought of her heirs.

(M 34) KNOWLTON-BACHELDER-FELLOWS House Gone

Just beyond, back from the road, Ebenezer Knowlton had a small house before 1730. He sold to Joshua Bachelder in 1743. Widow Bachelder sold to Jeremiah Fellows Jr. in 1788.

(M 35) PURINGTON-FIFIELD-BLAKE **House Gone**

Elisha Purington Jr., gunsmith and blacksmith, built a house on the opposite side of the road, with a shop near the Knowlton place, in 1737. He sold to John Fifield, blacksmith, of Kingston in 1759. Sixteen months later Fifield sold to John Blake, carpenter.

(M 36) BLAKE-WORTHEN-FELLOWS-POOR **Frank H. Poor**

John Blake in 1760 built a new house and opened tavern. One hundred years later 60 yoke of oxen moved it to Trundle-Bed Lane for the Eldridge parsonage, now the home of Leonard Miller.

Blake died and his widow married Jacob Worthen, who sold to Jeremiah Fellows in 1793. Polly Fellows, grand-daughter of Jeremiah, born June 25, 1775, married David Poor of Newburyport; she died Oct. 10, 1856, and was in her last years full of tradition of early life of this locality.

Joseph Poor, son of David, built the present house in 1860.

(HOG-PEN LANE)

(M 37) BLAISDELL-CARTER **House Gone**

John Blaisdell built a small house in 1837 on Hog-Pen Lane, a lane that ran from where sits Grange Hall to Stumpfield Road. Blaisdell froze to death while drunk and Francis Hilliard bought the place and rented it many years. George Walton lived there, and Aaron Carter of Newton came there. He died young and his sons, Eugene and Ernest, and his daughter Hattie, lived with his widow several years.

(M 38) MOSES BLAKE JR. **House Gone**

On the right of Hog-Pen Lane, in what is now the " Bishop ", Moses Blake Jr. built his house. He was over 30 years constable, served in an Indian war, and he wore to his death his knee pants and cocked hat and buckled shoes. He was nicknamed " The Bishop ". He built here in 1754.

(M 39) JOHN CHAPMAN **House Gone**

Further up on the left, John Chapman had his home built before 1730. When I was a lad the cellar hole was clear in what is now Mr. Miller's orchard field.

(TRUNDLE-BED LANE HOMES)

(M 40) CONNOR-HODGDON-FELLOWS-STROUT-SAWYER
" Sumach Cottage "
Rev. Roland D. and Mary L. (Palmer) Sawyer

Benjamin Connor Jr. had a small house here shortly after 1800; it appears to have gone back to Stephen Chase, for in 1834 he sold the site with buildings for $75.00 to widow Sally Hodgdon. Widow Hodgdon was caring for her father, Hanson Hodgdon, as well as her six children. In 1872 her oldest son traded properties with Ira Fellows, who came here and lived till his death, bringing up his several boys. Ira's daughter sold to Frank Strout in 1911, who brought his blacksmith shop here. He sold in 1926 to Mr. Sawyer, who had camped back of it since 1907 in his " Mother Earth Camp ".

(M 41) DOW-WEARE-PEVEAR **House Gone**

Above on the left, near Mr. Miller's line in Frank Poor's pasture, Jabez Dow, son of Ezekiel, built his home. He sold the house and his 22 acres to Nathaniel Weare, April 18, 1775. The place was long called the " Weare Farm ". The old house is gone.

Meshech Pevear was the last to live in the house, after his death the place went to the Chase family.

A "ten-footer" shoe shop. Kensington once had 22 of them. This belonged to Calvin Sawyer, built in 1858, by Mr. Eaton of South Hampton. Later owned by Frankie Austin.

(M 42) ELDREDGE-FITTS-DOW-TOWLE-MILLER

Leonard B. and Lillian M. Miller

Rev. E. D. Eldredge moved here the old Blake Tavern around 1862. It was sold by his heirs to Laura Fitts of So. Hampton in 1878. Mr. Dow bought it around 1880 and his son George and his sister Etta lived there many years. George Walton then owned it a short time and sold to Arthur Towle. Mr. Miller came there in 1936 and made the great improvements upon the place and has brought the land to a high degree of productivity.

(M 43) CHASE-MACE **Everett Sawyer Mace**

Turning Mace's Corner on the right is the large and stately house built by Ezra Chase in 1807. He sold to Theodore K. Mace of Exeter in 1860. Mr. Mace sowed the farm to barley and hauled the crop to Exeter and it went down the river to the Frank Jones Brewery in Portsmouth. In two years Mr. Mace paid off his mortgage of $3200. First his son, Frank A. Mace, and then his grandson, Everett S. Mace, carried on a milk route into Exeter.

(M 44) CHASE **House Gone**

Elihu Chase, born Sept. 7, 1705, md. Mary Swain Dec. 9, 1730, and moved into his house already built, about 60 feet this side of the present Stephen Chase house. He had eleven children.

(M 45) CHASE-BROWN-AKERMAN-HERRICK-HODGES **Hodges**

Stephen Chase, youngest son of Elihu, born 1753, built the present house. Stephen built double, so his two sons, Stephen B. and John, born 1795 and 1798, could have a home together. They could not get along and Stephen B. sold to Benja Brown. Mr. Brown was the father of Rosa Brown, who married Dr. Akerman. Mrs. Akerman was Principal of schools in Lexington and Concord, Mass. for many years. She was a brilliant woman and much interested in our town. Fred Herrick owned the place a few years, then sold to Robert S. Herrick of Boston, and it is now the property of Mr. Hodges, owner of " Highfields Farm ".

(M 46) EBENEZER GOVE **House Gone**

Ebenezer Gove, Quaker, grandson of Edward, built in 1728, 200 yards this side of the Brick House. He had 10 children. The oldest girls, Abigail and Elizabeth, married in town. Nathan, Ruth, Hannah, Anne, had the farm; Asa, Solomon, David, Sampson, moved away.

(M 47) GOVE **Irving C. Gove**

John Gove, cousin of Ebenezer, owned lots 117 and 118 in the First Division and bought one end of Lots 119 and 120 from James Stanyan. He built on top of the hill in 1743. He gave the place to his son Obadiah in 1752 and went back to Seabrook. Obadiah conveyed the farm, including the Ebenezer place, to his sons, Nathan and Enoch, in 1780. Nathan lived on the Ebenezer farm and Enoch built the present house

around 1795. His son was Lewis, father of Harriet Ann, Andrew, Lewis and Clinton. Clinton was the father of Irving and Ralph.

(M 48) GOVE "The Brick House"

Albert G. and Marguerite Flynn

Amos, son of Enoch, built this house in 1832. He was a business man and mariner. He sold to his brother Lewis, then in Portsmouth. Lewis died in 1853 and gave the place to his niece, Harriet Ann. Upon her death it went to Clinton, and at his death to Ralph, who has recently sold to Mr. Flynn.

(M 49) KNOWLTON-TILTON-HAMMOND-HODGES House Burned

Thomas Knowlton, son of Ebenezer, had a home here around 1740, perhaps earlier. Joseph Tilton, a carpenter and son of the first Jeremiah of Home M50 built a fine set of buildings here. His children, Charles, Marcia and Mary, lived here after their father's death. Charles died, Marcia and Mary moved to Exeter, selling to a man named Hammond. While he was here the buildings all burned.

(M 50) PERKINS - TILTON - HILLIARD - SAVAGE - HERRICK - HODGES **Charles E. and Gladys N. Hodges**

HIGHFIELDS FARM, which by the recent owners, Messrs. Herrick and Hodges, has been fitted up as a " Gentleman's Estate ", started in 1728, when James Perkins, who md. Shuah Nason, built their home on the hill. Widow Shuah died Sept. 8, 1803, and Jeremiah Tilton of North Road bought the property. The farm originally was lots 121 and 122. Tilton built the present house in 1805. His son lived there and married a second time to a woman by name of Ordway and moved to the head of Beaver Dam road around 1870. Francis Hilliard bought the farm, cut off lumber, and rented to many people Fred Herrick of Lynn bought and after three years sold to Lester E. Savage, who after three years sold to Robert S. Herrick Jr. of Boston, and upon his death Mr. Hodges bought the estate.

As one stands today and sees all the comforts of this modern country estate, his mind goes back to the heroic story of Widow Shuah Perkins with her 16 children, making her hemlock brooms with which to sweep, and sending two sons into the Revolution to give their lives at the front.

(M 51) BENJAMIN TILTON **House Gone**

Benjamin Tilton md. a daughter of James and Shuah Perkins and had a small house on the farm. They moved away and the house became one of the farm buildings.

(M 52) SMITH **House Gone**

Reuben Smith was here before 1732. He owned three shares, 114, 115, 116, in the 4th range. Nov. 5, 1772 he sold the 33 acres with buildings to his son-in-law, Samuel Lamprey. Smith's son changed his name to Reuben Smith Dow.

(M 53) WIDOW DOW-PRESCOTT **House Gone**

A small section of the Smith farm, only an acre or so, was cut out and a small house built on it, in which a Widow Abigail Dow lived in the decade 1775-1785. Reuben Smith Dow came to own the place and sold to Israel Dow in 1803 for $300. Israel Dow sold to Aaron Dow in 1804. David Prescott was the last to own it and he sold the place for $65 to Lewis Gove who took down, or moved away, the buildings.

(M 54) BROWN-TILTON **House Burned**

Josiah Brown, brother of Ebenezer and Thomas, was here in 1732. Caleb Brown, last of the family to own the house, sold to Levi Tilton of East Kingston in 1832. Levi Benson Tilton came there around 1876, lived there eight years, then moved to Exeter to enable his children, Henry and Emma, to attend Exeter schools. The buildings burned in 1896.

(M 55) BLAKE-SPALDING-EVANS **House Burned**

Moses Blake built here in 1737 a large house. In 1842 his posterity sold to Capt. Prescott Spalding of Newburyport. In 1858 the Richardson family, from Newburyport, lived here. Charles A. Evans bought the farm and had the longest barn in town. The buildings burned in 1921.

(M 56) HEZEKIAH BLAKE **House Gone**

Hezekiah Blake, son of Moses, was here before his father, and built in 1724. He died in 1746. The well is on land now owned by Hammond.

(M 57) " WITCH BROWN " **House Gone**

At the foot of the hill, a short way in on Dearborn Road was a small house put up by some of the Josiah Brown family. Around 1780 the old woman who lived there was called a " witch " and stories of her bewitching powers survived many years.

(M 58) NATHANIEL DEARBORN **House Gone**

On the right side, the corner across the Dearborn Road, stood the original home of Nathaniel Dearborn, here in 1732. He was born Jan. 21, 1710 and md. Mary Bachelder Dec. 2, 1731. He gave the place to his son Jeremiah. George Dearborn was the last to live there, around 1855.

(M 59) DEARBORN-PIPER-EVANS-BODWELL
Harold W. and Dorothy C. Bodwell

Samuel Dearborn, son Nathaniel, built this house in 1793, 150 years ago. He died 1847 and the place was sold to John Piper of Straham, who wanted a large farm for his several boys. Dan Evans bought it around 1890 and sold in 1909 to Radcliffe, who sold to Mr. Bodwell.

(M 60-61-62) SHAW HOUSES **Three Houses Gone**

Joseph Shaw was on upper Stumpfield very early, certainly around 1720 and perhaps earlier.

60 — **Joseph Shaw's** original house stood North of the road; the house was a double house, or at least a large one, as we see by his will in 1745. In that will he gave one end to his son Moses and the other to his wife.

61 — **Elihu Shaw's** house. Elihu married in 1740 and built his house South of the road on land bought from Luther Morgan.

(M 62) MOSES SHAW **House Gone**

There is dispute as to whether Moses Shaw Sr. or Moses Jr. built the house here. The house had two guest chambers finely panelled, the work being done by Ebenezer Clifford. One room is now preserved in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

Samuel Foss bought the house around 1865. His son, Charles W., lived there after him, and Fred E. and Carrie E. Foss grew up in the fine old house. It then went into the hands of Arthur W. Evans, who sold the place to lumbermen. The house was taken down.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE. On the Bodwell side stood beneath some great elms, one of the colonial little red school houses, with elevated seats in back so that the master could see the big boys there at any time. It was built in the decade 1770-1780.

(M 63) GILMORE **Granville A. and Grace M. (Foss) Gilmore**

This pleasant cottage home was built in late 1922 and early 1923, not far from where stood the Shaw-Foss house. Destroyed by fire, Jan. 5, 1946.

(M 64) ROWE-FOSS **Miss Gertrude M. Foss**

Joseph Rowe, born Jan. 19, 1738; md. Mehitable Sanborn 1763, and this was their new house. Simon Rowe, his son, was an active man, born here in 1767. George Rowe, sick many years, died here around 1870. Fred E. and Nellie Foss lived here many years and the place is now owned by their daughter, Miss Gertrude M. Foss.

(M 65) LOCKE **House Gone**

Edward Locke was born May 28, 1701; he md. Hannah Blake, daughter of Moses, Dec. 17, 1724. They built in either 1723 or 1724 on land he bought here in 1723. He died Jan. 1788. His widow died 1789. Edwin Stevens filled up the well and cellar hole in 1860 when he came here.

(M 66) ROWE-PRESCOTT-SHAW-RAY-HART **Agnes S. Hart**

Moses Rowe built here in 1736. A daughter md. Marston Prescott and both families lived here. His daughter Mercy md. Abraham Shaw in 1779 and her husband came to own the place and put up the present new house in 1782. The house has the largest fireplace in town. Dora Goodwin of Boston, an authoress, rebuilt the home and made additions around 1910. The father and mother of Geo. E. Ray bought and after their death the place was sold to Agnes S. Hart.

(" BLAKEVILLE ")

Elisha Blake was here before 1737 and built the house on the old road along Kingston line and was running his saw-mill then. Three other houses were built by his posterity, as follows:

(M 67) BLAKE-STEVENS-RAY **George E. and Marion H. Ray**

Dearborn T. Blake, carpenter, built this house around 1845. In 1860 he sold to Edwin A. Stevens of Lee. Mr. Stevens' son Al, from around 1880, carried on a blacksmith shop, cider mill, machine shop, etc. His shop was a building moved from Kensington to Exeter and back again.

(M 68) BLAKE-AUSTIN-PLUMMER **Mrs. Fletcher G. Plummer**

Jerry Blake, carpenter and dancing teacher, built this house between 1845 and 1850. His daughter Hattie married James Austin Jr. who was the first shoemaker to use a machine to sew turned shoes in town. Mr. Plummer bought in 1922.

(M 69) BLAKE-EVANS-STEVENS **House Gone**

This was known in 1880 as the " Tilt Blake " house. It was built by the father of Tilton Blake. It stood beyond the Elisha Blake house. Charles A. Evans took the house down and sold the land to Al Stevens. Tilt Blake's carpenter shop was bought by Levi Benson Tilton and moved to East Kingston and used for a kitchen in his house, now the home of Ella (Tilton) Simpson. Evans moved the barn to his own place. Part of the house became the shop of Will Downing in So. Hampton.

(M 70) BLAKE-PERKINS **Alvah E. and Eulalia Perkins**

This is the original Elisha Blake house, built 1736. It is the only building of the type to be found in town or this locality. One story, with loft cut into rooms. Ferdinand L. Blake family last here.

Mr. and Mrs. Perkins came here from Jackson, N. H., in 1915, and run an up-to-date dairy farm of pure-blooded Guernseys.

NORTH ROAD HOMESTEADS

Early "Drinkwater" Section

The section made up by the Second Land Division and the "Quarter Mile", running from Hampton Falls line, along the present road from old "Frying Pan Corner" to the present Brick School Corner, was called in early days "Drinkwater".

The big tract at the left as we enter from Hampton Falls was known as "Barren Plain" and "Burnt Swamp". It was settled by the Hampton Falls families of Sanborn, Tuck, Swain, Healey, Blake, Lovering, Prescott, Cilley, Haskell, Green, Longfellow, Perkins; and Joseph Wadleigh of Exeter, Haskell and Fellows of Ipswich, Abraham Moulton of Hampton, John Sherburn of Portsmouth, and Caleb Shaw of Stumpfield Road in Kensington.

THE LOCATION OF THEIR HOMES

(N 1) SANBORN **House Gone**

Abraham Sanborn, born Mar. 10, 1696, located on the left as we cross Frying Pan Corner, between 1718 and 1720. His son Theophilus was killed by Indians at Saco, Sept. 30, 1749. Another son was Lieut. Abraham of the Revolution.

(N 2) SANBORN-BROWN-TILTON **House Gone**

Moses Sanborn, son of Enoch, built on the right, on the hillside. His son James built a new house, in which Moses and Jeremiah, sons of James, lived. Jeremiah married a daughter of Sherburn Tilton on Main road and moved there. Dr. Brown took down the old house around 1850 and built a small cottage for his hired man. Widow Annie (Fellows) Tilton, widow of John of Hampton Falls Hill, and one of the 11 children of Nate Fellows, came here in 1879, with her three children, William O., Alice E. and Helen. The last named died young. Alice is now Mrs. George B. Shaw.

(N 3) TUCK-TITCOMB-OSGOOD-CREIGHTON-SABINE
Richard F. Burnham

Edward Tuck built his house just beyond the present house in 1720. The new house was built in 1800 and the barn in 1820. Jesse had the farm, then Samuel, a thin man, but 6 feet and 6 inches tall. He married Martha Fogg of the Parsonage up the lane and had as children, Sarah Dearborn, Samuel Parsons, Edward Prentiss.

Charles Titcomb of Newburyport bought from the family and his son Abraham lived here and his daughter, Elizabeth M. (now Mrs. Herbert Walton of Exeter), was born here. Nahum Osgood bought the place and sold to William Creighton of Revere in 1910, who sold to the Mr. Sabine, who sold 1946 to Richard F. Burnham.

(N 4) SWAIN-HEALEY **Healey Pasture**

Beyond the Tuck farm the Swains built. They sold to Col. Peter Weare, who in 1744 sold to Capt. Nathaniel Healey, and his son Nathaniel came here.

(N 5) BLAKE **House Gone**

Beyond the Swains stood the home of Samuel Blake, built between 1718 and 1720. The house was sold and moved away and Mr. Healey bought the land.

(N 6) LOVERING-HEALEY-BROWN-MILBURY-SANBORN
James O. Elton

Beyond Moses Sanborn, John Lovering who married a daughter of Reuben Sanborn, built in 1733. He sold 70 acres and buildings to Nathaniel Healey on July 5, 1756. Healey built the present house in 1780 and the barn in 1795. A part of the old Lovering House is part of the present house. Wells Healey, grandson of Nathaniel, sold to Dr. Jonathan Brown, April 8, 1841. Dr. Brown's son, Langdon Boardman, conveyed the property to Mrs. Milbury. The late Levi N. Sanborn bought in 1916. Mr. Elton bought in 1945.

(N 7) SANBORN-TUCK-DEARBORN-MILBURY
Mrs. Abby (Brown) Sanborn

Jewett Sanborn, son of Lieut. Abraham, had the south end of his grandfather's farm (No. 1 above). Sam Parsons Tuck bought it, and after his death, his nephew, Daniel Dearborn, lived there. It went to the Milbury family and the house burned when Avard Milbury lived there. The late Levi Sanborn bought the land and barn.

(N 8) JOSEPH WADLEIGH **House Gone**

Beyond the Lovering Farm and adjoining, Joseph Wadleigh, born at Wadley's Falls in Exeter in 1698, built his house in 1727. He died 1779, and his son Joseph died in 1808 and his grandson Joseph in 1817.

(N 9) SANBORN-WADLEIGH-SANBORN

Jewett Sanborn - Sewell Wadleigh house, now Mrs. Abby Sanborn's garage.

(N 10) WADLEIGH-WESSON-SANBORN-
Mrs. Abby (Brown) Sanborn

N 10 continued

Cyrus D. Wadleigh, son of Sewell, built the new house about 1848, into which he moved with his young wife, Rhoda Sanborn. His children born here were John Sewell, Isabel and Helen, all active in my youth in the Universalist Church. John died this year in Amesbury. Fred Wesson lived here many years. Mrs. Sanborn bought in Sept. 1942.

(N 11) WADLEIGH **Mrs. Flora A. Wadleigh**

This house was built by William H. Wadleigh, Jr. (Capt. Bill) in 1844. His wife was a widow, Mehitable Ann Mallon, who at the time of her marriage had two sons, John and James. Frank L. inherited the place, then it went to the late Arthur Garfield Wadleigh, who was an active young man, held many town offices. He died young and his widow now owns the place, and her son, a third William H., is in the armed service.

(N 12) WADLEIGH-ROCK-BANGS

Charles D. and Myrtie D. Bangs

The second Joseph Wadleigh received the northern half of the farm of the first Joseph, and put up a new house down the lane in 1749. His son Jeremiah and his grandson, Ellery Channing, lived here. Ellery's widow sold to Joseph Rock, who sold to Mr. Enstrom, who sold Sept. 23, 1923 to Mr. and Mrs. Bangs, who came from Brockton, Mass., but were born in Skowhegan, Maine.

(N 13) PRESCOTT **House Gone**

Jonathan Prescott, son of pioneer James, built beyond the home of Mr. Bangs soon after 1708. Later the place was owned by a Jesse Prescott and also a Jesse Tuck.

(N 14) PRESCOTT-FELLOWS-ROUNSEFELL "Rolling Ridge"
Dr. Clifford G. and Betsy (Clow) Rounsefell

Capt. Jonathan Prescott, son of Jonathan, built this house in 1744. In 1795 his son Jonathan sold to Nathan Fellows and moved to Gilmanton. Nathan Fellows, Jr., born 1802, inherited the place; he died in 1852 leaving a widow and 11 children. Emma L., the 8th child, married Charles R. Gove and lived here many years. Dr. Rounsefell bought in 1918 and has taken great interest in the farm and has improved to its present condition. The 1744 house was only one end of the present house; the new section was added by Nathan Fellows between 1824-1830.

BLACKSMITH SHOP and SCHOOL HOUSE

Down the hill once stood the Prescott blacksmith shop and the small school house, built on his land in 1774.

(N 15) CILLEY-SANBORN-STEVENS **House Gone**

At the turn of the road on the left stood the home of John Selea (Cilley). He sold to the Sanborn family in 1741 and went to Biddeford. Daniel Sanborn sold to Roger Stevens of Newburyport in 1762.

(N 16) HASKELL **House Gone**

Further on stood the home of Abraham Haskell, here before 1727. His son Job was here and paid taxes 1771 to 1785; the family then disappears.

(N 17) LANE-BLAKE-TRUE-ARMSTRONG-YORK **House Gone**

Samuel Lane md. a daughter of Capt. Philemon Blake, who lived where Mrs. Hilda McLaughlin now lives. He and Philemon Blake, Jr. settled here before 1727. In August, 1735, Mr. Lane had 3 children die of Diphtheria within 36 hours and he sold to his brother-in-law and went back to Hampton Falls.

Mr. Blake moved the two houses together. John M. True bought the place from the heirs of John Adams Blake in 1897, and sold to Mrs. Amelia Armstrong, whose son Melvin was living there at the time of the fire, Sept. 1933. John W. York bought the farm in 1944.

In the Spring of 1946 Mr. York started building a home here.

HON. AND MRS. STEWART E. ROWE

(N 18) ROWE **Hon. Stewart E. and Lillian (Whiteman) Rowe**
Harold E. and Nellie (Dow) Dickinson

(N 18) Continued from cut on other side.

This is the oldest house in town, built between 1706 and 1714, and the farm is one of the oldest, and has never left the Rowe family. The line of succession has been: — Capt. Robert, Jonathan, Jonathan, Josiah, Dean, Benjamin, Stewart.

Capt. Robert bought lots in 1706, married Dec. 1707, probably built in 1708. The late Benj. F. Rowe bought a barn of the Page family in Exeter and moved here with 70 yoke of oxen, and also bought the last standing section of the Benj. Cram place after the Civil War for a shoe shop. Hon. Stewart has been an active man in Rockingham County, lawyer, county treasurer, country solicitor and mayor of Portsmouth, the one city in the county.

Mr. Dickinson bought this year.

(N 19) ROWE-WADLEIGH-DOW-DICKINSON

Harold E. and Nellie (Dow) Dickinson

Joseph Rowe built near the road in 1730; his son, Dr. Benjamin, tapped 67 times for dropsy, built the present house without removing the original one, in 1755; his son added an ell, so that when Capt. Mark Wadleigh bought, it was the longest house in town. Wadleigh took down the original Joseph Rowe house.

About 35 years ago William N. and Hattie (Weare) Dow bought the place, and their daughter Nellie and her husband, Harold E. Dickinson, town clerk, now carry on an up-to-date poultry farm here.

(N 20) ROWE **House Gone**

In 1724 Capt. Robert gave three shares and a small house to his second son, Jonathan. Jonathan was a single man living alone in 1732, but he later received one half the Robert Rowe farm and went there, eventually receiving it all, and passing it to his son Jonathan.

(N 21) CRAM-CROSBY "Ethelden Cottage"
Elden and Ethel Crosby

This cottage was built for a summer home by Mr. and Mrs. R. Elden Crosby of Winthrop, Mass., in 1927.

(N 22) CRAM **House Gone**

Between the Dickinson and Malloy homes was the home of John Cram, Jr. It was built in 1724 and conveyed to him Jan. 6, 1725. John Lane bought the place around 1750.

HOMESTEAD OF REPRESENTATIVE JOHN R. MALLOY, see next page

(N 23) MELCHER-JOHNSON-MALLOY
Representative John R. Malloy

John Melcher, son of Samuel of Hampton Falls, built here before 1730. The cellar hole is some 70 feet south of the Malloy house. He had no children, and his nephew, Benjamin Melcher, came here and built the present house in 1774. He had 8 daughters and no sons. The family lived here till after the Civil War. Between 1865 and 1870 the family sold to Samuel Bachelder, and he sold in 1877 to Charles Johnson, who sold in 1882 to Denis Malloy of Exeter, whose son, Representative Malloy, now owns the farm. The farm was surveyed by Squire Ira Blake in 1832, at which time it was made up of four half shares in the First Divisions, 44 acres and some rods, slightly over one half in Kensington, the rest in Hampton Falls.

(N 24) MELCHER-COLLINS-MOORE-HUBBARD-WARDWELL
Arthur B. and Estella R. Hubbard

Edward Melcher, brother of Benjamin, built here in 1768; his family moved away one by one, Jonathan, his only son, going to Ohio. John Collins bought in 1825. In the late "eighties" Frank Collins sold to Thomas Moore, who in 1890 had the new house built. The contract was taken by George B. Shaw of Shaw's Hill, his first house built as a contractor. The Hubbards bought in 1926, and sold to Cyrus I. Wardwell May 1946.

(N 25) TILTON-SANBORN-COLBY **Arthur A. and Cora M. Colby**

Joseph Tilton, son of Capt. Joseph of Hampton Falls, built here before 1736. His farm ran through to his brother Sherburn's on Main Road. He died 1778 and his son Elijah sold. Several parties owned and Hilliard Sanborn bought and built the new house into which he moved in Nov. 1797. Mr. Colby moved in May 1, 1920, coming from Maine.

(N 26) TILTON-FOLSOM-SANBORN **House Gone**

Elijah Tilton sold the original Tilton House to Theophilus Folsom of Exeter, in 1782. Mr. Folsom lived here till 1789, his brother James lived with him, and it being a double house, he brought his bride, when he married, in 1785.

Hilliard Sanborn bought with the rest. Lilac bushes now mark the site.

(N 27) GILMAN-CLIFFORD-BARKER-BAKER
Fred and Maribel Eastman

Joshua Gilman, son of Peter, was living here in 1772 when he sold to Nathaniel Healey, who sold to Ebenezer Clifford. Later the Gilman family bought the place again, and sold 40 years ago to Charles Barker. The Edwin O. Baker farm bought at auction, in 1931, 200 acres, 75 head of stock, for $15,550. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman conduct the farm.

(N 28) TUTTLE-ROGERS **Earl A. and Ellen E. Rogers**

George Tuttle bought a half acre from the Barker farm and built here about 30 years ago.

(N 29) SHAW-ROWE-SIMPSON Mrs. Edith W. (Simpson) Eaton

Joseph Shaw of Stumpfield married Elizabeth Bachelder, Jan. 22, 1735, bought shares 284, 285, 286, 287 in the First Division and built this house adjoining his wife's people. Oct. 10, 1761 he sold to Capt. Winthrop Rowe, who had moved to Chester and wanted to come back. Capt. Rowe became Capt. of our troops in the Revolution.

Shaw moved to Brentwood. Before the Civil War, David Simpson of Stratham bought and his granddaughter now lives here.

(N 30) ROWE-WADLEIGH-FELLOWS-DAVIS "Pond Lily House" Earl Francis and Marjorie E. Wilbur

This house was built around 1780 by a son of Capt. Winthrop Rowe. He sold to the Wadleigh family and John was living here in 1822 when killed by Blaisdell. George A. P. Wadleigh sold for $75 while drunk, to Harry Fellows who ran the "Fish House" in East Kingston. Fellows opened a Road House here in 1892. He was raided and driven from town in 1895.

Three generations of Wadleighs who owned the place met tragic death. John was killed by Blaisdell. Mark was killed by a falling tree. George A. P. was thrown from a wagon when struck by a trolley car. After several owners the place was this year bought by Mr. Wilbur.

(N 31) BACHELDER House Gone

Nathaniel Bachelder, brother of John of Kingston line, owned land both sides the road and built before 1720. Which side his house stood I am not sure. He died 1724 and his widow and son carried on, and his son bought the Wadley Cram house below.

(N 32) Wadley Cram built in 1722. He was an older brother of John Jr. and Benjamin. In 1738 he sold to John Bachelder.

(N 33) CRAM-COLLINS-TILTON-BALCH-LACONIS Joseph and Josephine Laconis

1737, the year the town was incorporated, Wadley Cram built a new double house. His son Nehemiah had half of it. In 1760 Wadley went to Deerfield. The Hiltons of Exeter owned in 1825 and sold to John Collins, whose widow sold to Samuel P. Tilton, Dec. 9, 1849. Tilton's son Elbridge sold to Edward Balch, Apr. 9, 1901. Mr. Laconis came here about a dozen years ago.

(N 34) KELLY-PEVEARE ET AL House Gone

Near Exeter line on the left, Daniel Kelly had his house before 1732. A colored family lived there between 1800 and 1840. When the Civil War broke out a Peveare family was living there. The original house was gone long before but other small buildings had been moved there.

JUDE'S POND

Over the line in Exeter is Jude's Pond, so-named because near it Jude Hall built his shanty, and lived till 1828 on the $100 annual pension given him by the town of Exeter as a veteran of the Revolution.

(N 35) PRESCOTT **George A. Prescott**

Nathaniel Prescott, brother of John and Jonathan, whose wife was Ann Marston, built here between 1714 and 1720. He had no children but raised three nephews, James, Ebenezer and Nathaniel. Samuel Prescott, another nephew, had the place after his death Feb. 26, 1771. Josiah Dean Prescott built the new house in 1880, to replace the house built by Samuel in 1771. His son, George A. Prescott, came here to live when he married Miss Mary A. Hilliard, and here their four children were born.

PRESCOTT-CROWELL HOME, see next page

(N 36) PRESCOTT-FELLOWS-PRESCOTT
Arthur and Helen A. (Prescott) Crowell

Deacon John Prescott, brother of Nathaniel and Jonathan, and whose wife, Abigail Marston, was a sister of Nathaniel's wife, built here between 1714 and 1720. His heirs sold to Jonathan Fellows April 22, 1742, but Samuel bought it back Jan. 6, 1772. Robert Prescott bought the present house of the widow of Joseph Lane in 1814 and moved it here, and enlarged it to the present size.

(N 37) CRAM-LANE-SWAYNE **House Gone**

John Cram, who was originally at Home 22, was living on the south of Drinkwater Road, near the brook, in 1761, when he sold to Major John Lane. Near him was Jonathan Swayne in 1754, and who sold his small house and 4½ acres to Nathaniel Prescott, in 1762. Lane came to own both places and put up a new house, now the home of Mrs. Helen Crowell.

(N 38) JONATHAN FELLOWS **House Gone**

Jonathan Fellows came here from Ipswich in 1733 or a little earlier and married a "Widow Sanborn" and lived on one of the Sanborn farms till 1742 when he bought the Deacon John Prescott place. In 1752 his will gave the place to his son Isaac who sold to Samuel Prescott in 1772.

(N 39) FELLOWS-HODGDON-PHILBRICK-ARMSTRONG
Melvin G. and Ruth (McKenna) Armstrong

Deacon Jonathan Fellows in 1742 bought the Deacon John Prescott farm. In 1752 he willed it to his son Isaac, and willed that his son Jeremiah, who had built his house on one end, have the house but move

it off. Jeremiah bought land of Nathaniel Prescott in 1755 and moved the house up opposite George Armstrong's house. In 1792 he sold everything to his son Jonathan, his son Samuel built this house, 1820. In 1873 Ira Fellows traded homes with the Hodgdon family of Trundle-Bed Lane. Frank Philbrick bought from the Hodgdon family and sold to Mrs. Amelia Armstrong, whose son now carries on the farm.

(N 40) ISAIAH GREEN **House Gone**

On the left Isaiah Green had a house. His son Jeremiah lived there after him.

(N 41) SHERBURN-PERKINS **House Gone**

The elder John Sherburn who came from Portsmouth had a small house back from the road on the slope of Round Hill. He sold to Moses Perkins, a tailor. Perkins bought and moved there a part of the Samuel Blake house.

(N 42) LONGFELLOW **House Gone**

Nathan Longfellow owned lots running from Wild Pasture through to Drinkwater Road. His son Jonathan built on the side of Round Hill. In 1779, Samuel, son of Jonathan, married Mary, daughter of their neighbor, Moses Perkins. The house was a large house, for Jacob Longfellow, who married Mercy Page in 1760, also lived in it.

(N 43) FELLOWS-TUCK **House Gone**

Samuel Tuck, son of Edward, and who married Anna Moulton, daughter of Abraham, bought the tract of land between the present Melvin Armstrong home and the Main Road, and built his house there in 1754. Tuck was a tanner and had tan-pits. Fellows retained the water-rights and had his mill there.

(N 44) PAGE-POTTER-McCLINTOCK-ROWE-ARMSTRONG
Mrs. Amelia (Rowe) and George I. Armstrong

This home has changed ownership six times, once by sale and five times by marriage. Deacon Moulton conveyed the land to James Page when Page married his daughter and Page built his house in 1757. Page sold outright to Ebenezer Potter Feb. 22, 1769, and Potter built a large new house and ran his tavern. Potter's daughter Sarah married McClintock, and he received the farm. McClintock's daughter married the first William Rowe, and he received the farm. Rowe rented half the house to Rev. Increase Sumner Lincoln and it became the "Unitarian Parsonage". A second William Rowe built the present house in 1869, just 100 years after the Potter house. Mr. Rowe's son, Harrison Rowe, married Mrs. Amelia Armstrong, whose son George now carries on the farm.

(N 45) MOULTON "Round Hill Farm" **House Gone**

Abraham Moulton was given by his father, John of Hampton, shares 229 and 230 in the First Division; 59 and 60 in the Second Division; and 59 in the Third Division. He built his first house in 1722 opposite the Tuck-Gadd shoe shop, but later sold that for a school house, having built his large house opposite Round Hill on "Round Hill" road. The cellar and apple orchard were still there 50 years ago. He was the first deacon of the Colonial Church.

(N 46) POTTER-SHAW **Armstrong Garage**

This house was the James Page house built 1757. John Potter lived here. Potter married Anna Cook and her sister Betsy lived with them and received the place. Her son, John W. Shaw, lived here over 80 years, he was always called "Potter" Shaw. His two daughters, Emily and Sarah, were called the most handsome girls in town. Emily married Henry Crosby and moved to Amesbury. Sarah married Charles Batchelder. She died in Haverhill at the home of her son, being 100 years and two months old, and the only native of Kensington to live past 100 years.

DRINKWATER BROOK AND BRIDGE

This little brook was called the center of North Road (the north side of the town). On the knoll this side was erected the frame of the first Meeting House in June 1732, but moved next year to where now stands the Union Meeting House.

On the right was the Fellows mill-pond and Grist-Mill, and the Tuck Tannery, all active in 1823. Beyond the brook on the left stood the first Moulton home, sold the town for the first North Road School House in 1751.

(N 47) SHAW-TUCK-PHILBRICK

Harry T. and Elizabeth (Toothaker) Philbrick

Caleb Shaw, son of Joseph of Stumpfield, built here. His son Elijah sold to Samuel Tuck in 1801 and moved to "Shaw's Hill". Jonathan, son of Samuel Tuck, married Sally Philbrick in 1829 and put up this house the same year. The late Henry and Charles Tuck were born here, and also the children of Charles, viz. Lizzie, Annie and Frank L., who is living in Haverhill, Mass.

(N 48) SHAW-TUCK-PHILBRICK The Brick House

Mrs. Annie (Brown) Philbrick

The original Shaw house bought by Samuel Tuck stood near the present Brick house which was built by Henry Tuck, son of the first Jonathan, in 1827. He died in 1848, a young man, and his nephew, Henry C. Tuck, inherited the place. He died in 1911, after having been an active man in town all his life. He married Mrs. Mary E. Philbrick, whose daughter-in-law now owns the home. In the yard is the little "Ten-Footer" shoe shop of Jonathan Tuck, later used by Thomas Gadd.

(N 49) SHERBURN **House Gone**

John Sherburn owned 45 acres, bought of Abraham Sanborn and the James family, opposite the Brick House, and in 1760 built his house here. 1766 he sold one half to John Jr. This son died in 1774 and another son, Nathaniel, died 1798, and Elijah Shaw bought the farm and in 1801 moved part of the house to Shaw's Hill.

(N 50) BACHELDOR-FELCH-GOVE-PHILBRICK

Horace and Gracilla R. Philbrick

John Bacheldor married Lucy James and when the North school, built in 1798, was sold at auction in 1842, he bought it and moved it

on four acres of land bought from the James family. Sewell Felch later bought the place, and his children lived there as well as himself. Sophie, widow of Lewis E. Gove, lived there after her husband died, and upon her death it was bought by Frank Philbrick, whose son now lives on the place.

(N 51) JAMES-ROWE-BROWN-SWEENEY **House Gone**

Across the road was a small house built by David James, soldier in the Indian war of 1762. Moses James was the last of the family to live there, he running a blacksmith shop, now the shop of Home No. 50 above mentioned. He was the last to run the Fellows Grist-Mill. Joseph Rowe bought the place, and upon his death it went to his son-in-law, George Brown. John Sweeney bought from him and the place burned while he lived there.

(N 52) JAMES-SPOKESFIELD-ROLLINS-FRAME-SMITH
"Rock Haven Apiary" **Perley S. and Pearl Smith**

This house was built 1728 by Edmund and Israel James. Edmund died 1735. Around 1860 the Widow Spokesfield bought the place. Later the Widow Rollins, whose son James and grandchildren, Fred, Perley and Bert, lived there 50 years ago. George Frame improved the place and ran a poultry farm there. Mrs. Frame sold in 1941 to Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

(N 53) FOGG-FELCH-ROWE-BROWN-WEARE-PRESCOTT
Herbert M. and Alice (Brown) Prescott

James Fogg built a small house on Hoosac side of the road in 1728 and built the present house in 1748. Phineas Felch bought of the Fogg family in 1803. He sold to John French in 1838, who sold soon after

to Abraham Rowe. In a foreclosure of mortgage Mrs. Phila Brown bought the place, and after her grandson, Frank Emery, died, George Weare bought and sold May 17, 1926 to Mr. and Mrs. Prescott. Mr. Prescott, after his years in the federal service at Manchester, is, with his wife, living his retired years here.

(N 54) FOGG-MORGAN-FELCH **House Gone**

Stephen Fogg, son of James, built a small house just beyond No. 53, and had a shop upon it. He sold to Parker Morgan in 1786, who sold to Jacob Felch in 1800, who sold to his brother Phineas in 1803.

(N 55) MARSHALL-HODGDON-AYERS **House Burned**

This side the lane to the Hoosac on the left was built a very small house for Miss Marshall, sister of the wife of Edmund Rowell. After the Rowells moved away in 1860 it was rented to various parties, William H. Hodgdon living there many years. The late Will Ayers was living there in 1908 when the house burned.

(N 56) BLAKE-HODGDON-ROWELL-KIMBALL-EASTMAN
George C. and Carrie L. Eastman

Moses Blake, Jr. bought this tract from David Sanborn in 1744. Blake sold land and buildings to David Green in 1754 and built on the other end of the farm in what is now the edge of the " bishop ". Green sold before 1762 to Israel Hodgdon of Dover, a Quaker. His son Caleb and his grandson Hanson (both in Revolution) lived there. Edmund Rowell of Newton bought in 1830. The buildings burned before he moved in and he bought from John W. Shaw the old Sherburn house and moved it here. Thomas Kimball bought in 1860 and sold around 1885. Mr. Eastman came here in 1901 and bought in 1908.

(N 57) HUTCHINS-HILLIARD-FRENCH-WEARE
George O. Weare

Timothy Hutchins (later spelled Hutchinson) bought shares 153, 154, 155 in the 5th range of First Division, in 1718. He was here the next year when he bought more land on the Ridge. His first house was small and the present house he built in 1743. The family sold to Richard Sanborn in 1761 for 6,000 pounds, and moved to Gilmanton.

Theophilus Hilliard bought the place Apr. 7, 1825, keeping the farm save seven acres which he sold with the buildings to John French, Aug. 20, 1828. French, who had married Harriet Brown, Oct. 31, 1826, bought more land and put up a shop and made plows and cultivators, his 1847 invention being the first all metal-tooth cultivator. His grandson, George O. Weare, came to live with him when he was aged and inherited the place.

(N 58) HILLIARD-TYRELL **House Burned**

Theophilus Hilliard built a new house in 1827. His children were Frank T., Joseph Chase, Sarah and Priscilla. The last named never married. She lived her life here, Mrs. Mary Blake and her daughters living with her many years. William B. Tyrell bought the place after her death and lived here till the house burned.

(N 59) PRESCOTT-HILLIARD-QUIRK

John L. and Margaret R. Quirk

Elisha Prescott lived here early (house on the left). Then Johnson Hutchins, son of Timothy, lived here. Then John Fifield came here 1759. Then Caleb Brown, then some of the David Green family.

Simon Prescott, a tailor, built the present house around 1790. His daughter Mina courted 30 years and never married, gave the place to Frank T. Hilliard. James Austin lived there many years. Ray Cook and Dorothy lived there several years and conducted a poultry farm. Mr. and Mrs. Morris came here in 1939. Mr. and Mrs. Quirk came this year, 1944.

SCHOOL HOUSE AND BLACKSMITH SHOP

On the right, at the head of the present Hilliard Road, stood a blacksmith shop in 1759 and later, and around 1775 a school house.

(N 60) GILMAN-SMITH-COOK-MORRIS "Poultry Acres"

Frank E. Morris

Joshua Gilman built here in 1772. Later some of the Simon Prescott family lived here. Jerry Smith bought after the Civil War and lived here. His daughter, Lillian C. Smith, sold to a Miss Hunter, who sold to Ray Cook. Mr. Morris bought in 1939.

(N 61) SANBORN-BROWN **House Gone**

Richard Sanborn, Jr. married Abigail Clifford 1737, built a house on the right as we go up the hill, the same year. The farm went through to Shaw's Hill.

(N 62) PAGE-GREEN **House Gone**

On the left John Page owned four shares and built before 1732. He went to South Hampton around 1753 and his son sold to David Green in 1767.

(N 63) PAGE-BROWN-GREEN **House Gone**

John Page sold the other half of his farm and buildings in 1753 to Caleb Brown. Brown also sold to David Green around 1765.

(N 64) SANBORN **Houses Gone**

Richard Sanborn, born 1693, married Elizabeth Bachelder in 1713, came to Ridge the same year. About 1730 his younger brother James came here and they built a new double house. Their farm was on the right and ran through to Shaw's Hill. Caleb Brown married into the family and he and a Sanborn built on the Shaw Hill end of the farm, the present house of Ella (Badger) Blodgett.

(N 65) PRESCOTT-PRESCOTT **House Gone**

James Prescott, son of Deacon John of Prescott's Corner, owned land both sides the road. He died 1754 and his son Josiah had his home place on the right. Josiah sold to Benjamin Moulton Sept. 30, 1765.

(N 66) PRESCOTT-FELLOWS-BLAKE **House Gone**

John Prescott, son of James, built on the left. He sold to Joseph Fellows, who in 1752 sold to Daniel Blake, who in 1752-3 kept the first store in town here.

(N 67) PULSIPHER-MOULTON-WILLIAMS-WADE
Peabody, Peabody, Cochran

Jonathan Pulsipher, born in Gloucester in 1704, had his home on the right before 1737. He was here in 1755 but died in Brentwood in 1766. Benjamin Moulton bought the place and built the new house in 1800 for his son John. John died young and the place was kept by his son Joseph. Dr. Jacob Williams came here in 1840. He died 1858 and his widow sold to George Moulton. Mr. Wade lived here many years. It is now the summer home of Miss Pauline Peabody, Mrs. Ruth M. Peabody and Miss Edith V. Cochran.

(N 68) PAGE **House Gone**

Another John Page built near the head of Dearborn Road in 1727. The last of his family, a very old lady, was the last to live in the house. Capt. Ben Moulton could remember her. After her death the house was taken down or moved.

(N 69) PAGE-MOULTON-BIRCH **Mr. Birch**

A James Page had a house here in 1745 and sold to Benjamin Moulton of Hampton. His son Benjamin built the present house in 1781. His son was Capt. Ben, and after the death of his daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth, the place was sold. It was bought by Mr. Birch a few years ago.

(N 70) NUDD-MOULTON-HUTCHINSON "Moulton Ridge Nursery"
Charles R. Hutchinson

Amos Nudd built this house, on one end of his father's land, in 1842. He moved the barn here from Samuel Tuck's at Frying Pan Corner.

He later went west, selling for $2,500 to Benjamin George Moulton. Mr. Moulton died April 14, 1911, lacking one day of being 90 years of age. Mr. Moulton never missed a Town Meeting in 70 years nor was ever sick a day in his life. Edward P. Hutchinson bought from Mr. Moulton's widow, and his son now conducts "The Moulton Ridge Nursery".

BACK TO "HILLIARD-SHAW'S HILL ROAD" TO KINGSTON

(N 71) HILLIARD **Walter A. and Lizzie A. (Austin) Hilliard**

Joseph Chase Hilliard came to Kensington at the age of 17 to work for Deacon Abraham Moulton. June 13, 1743, he married one of the deacon's daughters, as soon as his house was completed. The house then was only one end of the present house. The other end was added for his son, Capt. Joseph, in 1770. Still later the ell near the road was added. The farm was originally the property of Ebenezer Weare.

Between 1835 and 1855 Charles and Timothy Hilliard made boots here in the shop which is now Home No. 56 on South Road. The farm has never changed hands from the family. The succession has been — Joseph Chase, Theophilus, Charles, Jeremiah, Walter A., Miss Adelaide Louise.

(N 72) WEARE-JAMES-ROWE **Heirs of Amos T. Rowe**

Ebenezer Weare selected this knoll for his Kensington home, but he died young and his widow (a Locke) sold to Benjamin James, a carpenter, who wanted only a small place, and built his house in 1740. Several generations of the Rowe family have lived here, the last being Amos T. Rowe, an active man in town.

(N 73) BLODGETT **Horace P. Blodgett**

This house was built around a small house moved here from the Main Road, which sat where N-99 now is, and was built by Joseph Rowe about 1860, for his son-in-law, Philip Brown.

(N 74) SANBORN-BROWN and SHAW-BLODGETT
Mrs. Ella (Badger) Blodgett

James Sanborn, son of Richard Jr., built this house around 1775. He willed it to his son Henry and son-in-law, William Brown, in 1784. They sold to Elijah Shaw, Jan. 7, 1805, for $2,800 (70 acres). Elijah bought for his son Joseph, whose daughter married Rev. J. C. Blodgett, whose son, E. Judson Blodgett, was a prosperous farmer many years. The barn burned in 1920.

(N 75) SANBORN **House Gone**

Across the road on the right stood an original Sanborn house, the first house on the Hill.

(N 76) SANBORN-SHAW **Alfred and Eva Florence (Shaw) Scott**
Abraham Sanborn, Jr. came to the Hill in 1775 and after living some years in No. 75, built this house. June 25, 1801, Theophilus Sanborn sold the property to Elijah Shaw of the Brick School corner, and it has since been owned by the Shaw family. The late Weare N. Shaw called the crest "Orchard Hill" and adopted that nom de plume for his News-Letter writings for over 20 years.

NEW SHAW HOUSES

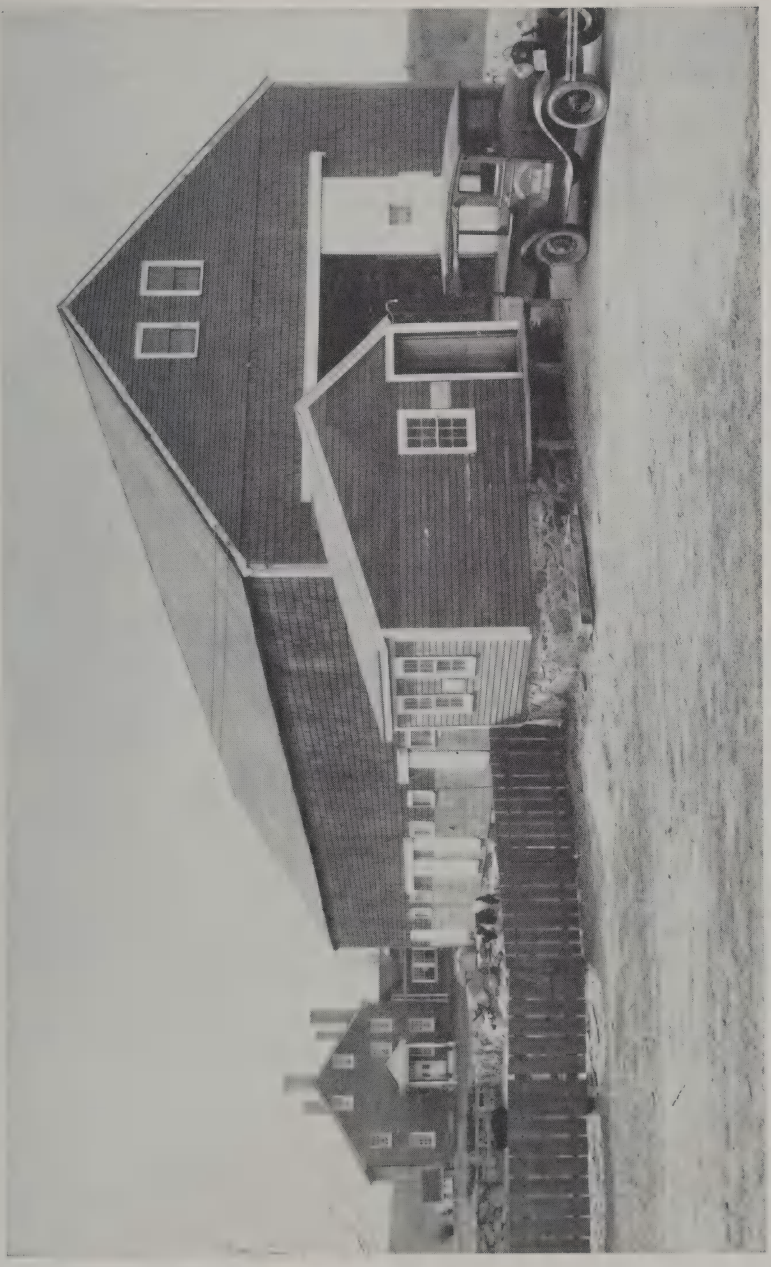
(N 77) GEORGE B. SHAW **Built 1891**
Mr. Shaw, who started to learn his trade in April 1887, became a carpenter and contractor and built here his own modern home in 1891.

(N 78) SHAW-SHAW **Frederick and Roger Shaw**
Irving Shaw built this small house around 1895. It went to Ray Shaw, who gave it to his sons.

(N 79) GEORGE JACKSON SHAW **Built 1934**
This modern home is the home of George "Jack" Shaw and his wife, Bernice T. Shaw.

(N 80) JOHN W. SHAW **Brick House** **Sherman and Blanche Shaw**
Herman W. and Catherine Shaw
This house was built in 1830. It was many years the home of Thomas and Abigail Shaw, and later of Weare N., and now the home of Sherman and Herman, who run the "Shaw Hill Dairy Farm".

(N 81) SANBORN-BROWN **House Gone**
On the left, below the Brick House stood a small house in which an aged, single woman of the Sanborn-Brown family lived many years.



SHAW'S HILL DAIRY FARM

(N 82) HOBBS **House Gone**

Stephen Hobbs built 1724, taken down 1907.

(N 83) KNIGHT-KENISTON- JACOBS "Sunny Knoll"
Dr. Leon H. and Sara (Wallace) Jacobs

Opposite the old Hobbs home John Knight, hired man for Sylvester Hobbs, built his home around 1900. Dr. Keniston bought in 1914 and rebuilt into a fine bungalow. In 1929 Dr. Jacobs bought and further improved the place to its present attractiveness.

(N 84) PRESCOTT-HOBBS-BAKER-FINNERAN
"Lynbrook Farm" John S. and Julie M. Finneran

Abraham Prescott, son of Deacon John, built this house 1740. He married Sarah Clifford July 2, 1741 and brought his bride here. They had 12 children, then moved to Deerfield, leaving the place to their sons, Benjamin and Simon.

Simon built at Hilliard's Corner, Benjamin built a new house, (N 85). Woodbridge and Mary (Rowe) Hobbs bought in 1842. After his death the place was carried on by Mrs. Hobbs and their son Sylvester; she died 1903 and Sylvester Jan. 1, 1910. Hibbert H. Baker bought the same year, and sold this year (1944) to Mr. and Mrs. Finneran, who have come here, with their daughter, Miss Mary Ellen, to make their home.

(N 85) PRESCOTT-FULLER-SMITH-COLE Ray and Mary E. Cole

Benjamin Prescott, son of Benjamin, built here and sold to James Fuller in 1842. The house went through a fire in 1843 and was rebuilt by Fuller. David Smith married a daughter of Fuller and lived here many years, finally moving to Exeter. Mr. Cole bought in 1929.

(N 86) BACHELDER-KIMBALL-PHINNEY **Mrs. Rachel Phinney**
Jeremy Bachelder, whose daughter Hulda married John Kimball, put up this house in 1770. Col. Bachelder brought up another Kimball lad, Maurice, who was born around 1800 and inherited the farm.

(N 87) KIMBALL **Frank and Marion P. Kimball**
Stephen Kimball, son of Maurice, built this brick home in 1842. It was the life-long home of his son, Stephen Maurice, whose son Frank now carries on the farm. It was built 2½ stories but a fire in 1928 made the upper part unsafe and it was rebuilt as at present.

YORK'S HILLSIDE FARM

(N 88) PRESCOTT-NUDD-YORK "Hillside Farm"
Arthur T. and Bessie H. (Blake) York

Benjamin Prescott at 21 years of age had a 100 acre farm here. He sold to Weare Nudd around 1780. Mr. Nudd put up the present house on a new site in 1815. The 102 foot barn was built in 1829. His son, John Nudd, was known over Rockingham County as a most successful farmer, and he took prizes from old Rockingham County Fair in the decade 1845-1855. His daughter Betsy married Daniel G. York of Deerfield. Archie York and his son, John W. York, one of the Board of Selectmen, are the third and fourth generation of Yorks to maintain the high order of excellence in farming set by the Nudds.

(N 89) YORK "Hillside Farm"
Mrs. Marcia E. and Miss Priscilla M. York

This house was built by Daniel G. York in 1861. Into it a decade later moved his son, John W., and his bride, Marcia E. (Godfrey) York. Here were born Grace, Frank, Mary Foster, Arthur, Priscilla, Daniel and Marion. And here in her sunset years, being almost 90, Mrs. Marcia York knits for the Red Cross and other relief agencies of the Second World War.

(N 90) WILLIAM NUDD The Unfinished Home

Near the site of the original Benjamin Prescott home, William Nudd, son of John, laid out and started his home. The Civil War broke out, he went south in the 15th regiment, was sent home sick in 1863, and died the day after his return and the home was never finished.

(N 91) ROWE-SANBORN-MOBBS **Karl B. Mobbs**

Above the Nudd site was a small house owned by a man named Rowe. On the spot the late Leroy N. Sanborn built the present house for his hired man.

(N 92) BACHELDER-SANBORN-PLUMMER-CALDWELL
"Kenridge Farm" **Charles W. Caldwell**

John Bachelder was here in 1714. His wife was Abigail Cram. In 1737 he was a substantial man, having in his home three sons and three nephews. His son was Lieut. John, whose widow, Abigail Philbrick, lived to near 100, and who at 95 was operated on for hernia by Drs. Perry and Gorham of Exeter. Jeremy Bachelder carried on the farm. His wife was Clarissa Stevens; they had no children and adopted his wife's three nieces, Lydia, Ellen F. and Clara F. Stevens. Ellen F. married Leroy S. Sanborn, who carried on till his death. Mr. Plummer bought of the heirs and Mr. Caldwell bought in 1942.

NORTH MAIN ROAD TO EXETER

This so-called "New Road" was laid out from Brick School to Exeter in 1838, and from "Meeting House Hill" to Brick School, five years earlier, 1833.

(N 93) FOGG-OSGOOD-PERFECT **John and Hazel K. Perfect**

The colonial parsonage of Mr. Fogg was built in 1738 and occupied in 1739. Mr. Fogg's grand-daughter married Dr. Joseph Osgood, and the family owned the place till the death of George Osgood, second, who died in Feb. 1941, and the heirs sold to Mr. Perfect.

Nine men from this house graduated from Harvard College and for 202 years it was the home of the town's "First Family."

(N 94) EVENS **House Gone**

Opposite the Town Hall stood the home of William and Abner Evens, sons of William of Salisbury. Their house was built in 1739. Abner sold out to William in 1749, who lived there all his life. His son William was in the Revolution.

(N 95) WILBUR **Joseph W. and Barbara I. (Irving) Wilbur**

Mr. Wilbur bought 15 acres of the old James lot that joined Hog Pen meadow and built in 1937. He put up a saw-mill which uses gasoline power.

(N 96) NASH-GAY **Alfred L. and Villa M. (Rayno) Gay**

Mr. Nash built this house in 1737 and sold to Mr. Gay, May 6, 1943.

(N 97) IRVING-GREENWOOD
Tom Irving, Ernest and Mary Greenwood

This most recent of new homes in the town, was first occupied the night of Nov. 30, this year. It's a neat cottage and sets on a 24 foot square modern cellar.

(N 98) MORLEY (Cottage-in-the-Pines)
Raymond C. and Theresa Morley
A neat little cottage, built by Mr. Morley in 1932.

(N 99) TOOTHAKER COTTAGE **Fred E. and Lena Toothaker**

(N 100) TILTON-BREWER **Elmer P. and Mable M. Brewer**
The original John Tilton house, built 1724, is gone, but beyond, reached by the side road, stands the new home. Here lived Edward Brewer who married Sarah Tilton, and here lived his son Alva for 81 years, and here now live Elmer and Mable and their son Carl.

(N 101) TILTON-SANBORN-GOVE-BACHELDER-POOR-JACOBS
Dr. Leon H. and Sara W. Jacobs

This original house of Sherburn Tilton, built 1725, still stands. Jeremiah Sanborn of Frying-Pan Corner married into the family and it was long-time the Sanborn place; Sophia Sanborn married Lewis E. Gove. Frank Bachelder carried on the farm several years, selling to Frank Poor, who in August of this year (1943) sold to Dr. Jacobs.

(N 102) RUSSELL- Clyde M. and Mabel N. (Brewer) Russell

On what was part of the old Tilton farm, Mr. and Mrs. Russell built their fine modern home in 1936, moving in on Nov. 14, 1936.

(N 103) WELSH **Frank and Edith G. (Brewer) Welsh**

Just beyond the Russell home, another of Alva Brewer's daughters and her husband built another fine modern house in 1937, moving into it in July 1937.

(N 104) PLOUFFE **Henry A. and Nora M. Plouffe**

After crossing the meadow road we come to the home of the Plouffes, built 1937.

(N 105) MILLER **Mrs. Eva R. (Laconis) Miller**

At the head of Haverhill Road, on the right, the cottage put up in 1942 by Leonard B. Miller, Jr.

(N 106) ROWELL **Mable G. and Everett Rowell**

On the left is the cottage home of Miss Rowell and her brother, built 1939.

(N 107) WEST-MORRIS **Mr. and Mrs. William A. Morris**

This house, built by Ernest West in 1938, was this year bought by Mr. and Mrs. Morris, then living on home 59, North Road.

(N 108) BROWN **Herbert E. and Madeline Brown**

This cottage, moved from Exeter in 1941, was this year enlarged to become the home of Mr. Brown and his bride, Madeline B. Watson, when they were married on July 19, 1943.

(N 109) JOHNSON **George W. Johnson**

This home was built by Mr. Johnson in 1927.

(N 110) SHAW "Birch Camp"
George B. and Alice E. (Tilton) Shaw

In this modern home, with a modern-equipped shop, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are spending the sunset years of their lives together. For 55 years a carpenter and contractor, Mr. Shaw in semi-retirement spends his busy hours on many hobbies.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Miss Maud T. Shaw, for several years conducted a tourist camp in part of the house.

(At this date, July 1946, John Johnson, Charles Sabine and Arthur Wiggin have houses in process of construction.)

KENSINGTON SOCIAL LIBRARY

Gift of the late Joseph Chase Hilliard, built in late fall of 1894 and completed in June, 1895. Received by the trustees June 27, and opened to the public July 6, 2 P.M.

Present trustees: Ralph B. Fish, Dorothy Palmer Card, George A. Prescott, Marion Page Kimball, Miss Faith York, of Kensington; and Prof. Crosbie, Prof. Selleck, Winter Eastman and Miss Mildred Vroom, of Exeter.

See pages 255-258 and NEWS-LETTER, Oct. 18, 1945.

KENSINGTON GRANGE HALL

Built as "Christian" Meeting House in 1838; dedicated as Grange Hall, June 23, 1906; first Grange meeting held therein, June 26, 1906. (See pages 121-122.)

THE "CITY"

Coming from Town Hall, Library on left, "Lower Graveyard" and Grange Hall on right.

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH TOWN HALL CONGREGATIONALIST CHURCH

The first, built as Union Meeting House in 1840, stands where was the 1733 Meeting House; Town Hall, built 1846, stands where Colonial Meeting House stood; the Congregationalist Church was built 1865. The half-acre before these buildings was the old "Meeting House Parade".

CHAPTER 21

BIOGRAPHICAL SECTION

I originally planned for Kensington a two volume work like that of Dow's HISTORY OF HAMPTON. Vol. 1, the Running History, with Vol. 2, a Biographical and Genealogical work.

Mrs. Elizabeth K. Folsom's husband, when she was writing her splendid FOLSOM GENEALOGY of 2 vols. and near 1100 pages, had rebuilt for her a typewriter specially adapted for genealogical work — this she has kindly allowed me to use, and I am writing into final form, my complete genealogy of Kensington Families.

Whether I shall complete the work and see it into a book, is not certain, and I wish here to record the names of the **Outstanding Citizens** and **Eminent Natives** of the town.

Rev. George Osgood in 1882, for the Hurd HISTORY OF ROCKINGHAM AND STRAFFORD COUNTIES, wrote a sketch, largely biographical.

The BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, published 1896, carried sketches of 12 Outstanding Citizens, then living.

Hazlett's HISTORY OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, 1915, copied the Hurd list in part. These books may be consulted for a very full account of many outstanding citizens and successful native sons, but the lists are not complete.

In the names below given I deal only with those born before 1900, for obvious reasons it would be unwise to include those born, or who have recently moved into town, after 1900.

OUTSTANDING CITIZENS BEFORE 1770

John Bachelder, Moses Blake, Philemon Blake, Elisha Blake, William Brown, Ebenezer Brown, Jonathan Brown, Jonathan Cass, Samuel Clifford, John Cram, Elihu Chase, Ezekiel Dow, Philip Dow, Jeremiah Eastman, James Fogg, Rev. Jeremiah Fogg, Dea. Jonathan Fellows, Isaac Fellows, Jeremiah Green, John Green, Ebenezer Gove, Nathaniel Gove, Nathaniel Healey, Jr., Timothy Hutchinson, Stephen Hobbs, Israel, Edmund and Benjamin James, Obadiah Johnson, Henry Lamprey, Edward Locke, Ebenezer Lovering, Widow Mary (Green) Longfellow, John Melcher, Dea. Abraham Moulton, Benjamin Moulton, Nathaniel Maxfield, Luther Morgan, Samuel, John and Theophilus Page, Jonathan Palmer, James Perkins, Joseph Pike, John, Jonathan and Nathaniel Prescott, Jonathan Pulsipher, Jonathan Purington, Robert and Dr. Benjamin Rowe, Richard, Abraham and James Sanborn,

Joseph, Caleb and Moses Shaw, David Stewart, John, Sherburn and Joseph Tilton, Edward and Samuel Tuck, Shadrach Ward, Joseph Wadleigh, John Weare, Ezekiel Worthen, Shuah Perkins, Phyllis Fogg.

OUTSTANDING CITIZENS, REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Ezekiel Worthen, Ebenezer Potter, Major Jere Fogg, Ebenezer Clifford, Capt. Joseph Clifford, Capt. Winthrop Rowe, Dea. Jeremiah Fellows, Joseph Chase Hilliard, Jr., Abraham Sanborn, Jr., David James, Benjamin and Edward Melcher, Moses Shaw, Jr., Enoch Worthen, Joseph Weare, Nathaniel Weare, Josiah Locke.

OUTSTANDING CITIZENS, 1800-1865

Col. John T. Blake, Squire Ira Blake, Hon. Newell Blake, Rev. J. C. Blodgett, John Dow, artist and Quaker, Capt. Stephen Kimball, Charles Hilliard, Oliver Locke, John D. Locke, Capt. Ben Moulton, Dr. Joseph Osgood, Rev. Napthali Shaw, Moses Shaw, Jr., Caleb Shaw, Jr., Rev. Elijah Shaw, Jonathan Tuck, Weare Nudd, John Nudd, Capt. Prescott Spaulding, Dean Prescott, Dean Rowe, Theodore Lovering, Charles Titcomb, Benjamin Eastman, Ezra Chase, Michael Gove, Lewis Gove, Abraham Shaw, John W. Shaw, Capt. Joseph Brown, William H. Rowe, Dr. Jacob Williams, George Peveare, Ferdinand L. Blake, Ensign John Blake, Dea. John Prescott Blake, Hezekiah Blake, Dearborn Blake, Col. Abel Brown, Samuel Dearborn, Dea. John Brown, Wm. H. Walton.

OUTSTANDING CITIZENS, 1865-1900

Rosa (Brown) Akerman, Joseph Newton Austin, Capt. Joe Brown, Dea. Stephen Brown, John Adams Blake, Joseph Newell Healey, Col. Jerry Poor, Rev. Erasmus D. Eldridge, Rev. Philip Titcomb, Rev. George Osgood, Daniel G. York, John W. York, Stephen M. Kimball, Weare N. Shaw, Henry C. Tuck, John French, Benjamin George Moulton, Francis Hilliard, George Blake, Mary Esther Warner, Ida (Sawyer) Mace, Joseph Weare Brown, Asa Warren Brown, Daniel M. Evans, John Pat Lamprey, Warren P. Lamprey, Lewis Gove, George Osgood, Jonathan Palmer, William H. Wadleigh, Woodbridge Hobbs, Abraham G. M. Titcomb, Levi B. Tilton, Boardman Brown, Stephen Green, Theodore K. Mace, Harrison Rowe, Daniel E. Palmer, Leroy S. Sanborn, Edward Brewer, Josiah D. Prescott, Russell Prescott, Augusta Perkins, Caroline (Healey) Dall, Mrs. Susan Chase.

A GROUP OF FARMERS AND WORKERS FAMOUS FOR ABILITY AND SKILL

Deacon John Lamprey, mowed on the marsh at 90 years of age; Capt. Joe Brown, stacked 11 stacks of hay in one day at 87; Tommy Gadd,

the expert cobbler; Jim Rollins and Steve Sawyer, the men who could make the best shoe in the old days; George W. Green, Al Stevens, Howard Towle, blacksmiths and mechanics; Edward Bickford, for 30 years did more work with one hand than many with two; John Hodgdon and Billy Hilton, musician and fiddler; Abram Hilliard and Wendell P. Hilliard, carpenters.

KENSINGTON CLOCK-MAKERS

The town produced the tall-clocks very early. We know that Elisha Purington, Jr. and his brother Jonathan, made them before 1750, and family tradition said their father, who died 1736, also made them. Jeremiah Fellows had the Purington patterns and made clocks after the Revolution, for some of which Ebenezer Clifford made cases. A Fellow-Clifford clock sold in 1927 for $1000.

EMINENT NATIVES OF THE TOWN

(a)
Ministers of the Gospel

* Those starred graduated at Harvard — figures give date of birth

* Rev. Daniel Fogg, born in Rye, 1743 — grew up with his uncle
* Rev. Timothy Hilliard, 1746, Congregationalist
* Rev. Joseph Warren Dow, 1779, Congregationalist
* Rev. Timothy Hilliard, 1786, Unitarian
Rev. Elijah Shaw, 1793, "Christian" denomination
Rev. Amos Brown, 1804, Congregationalist (Dartmouth)
Rev. Jeremy Webster Tuck, 1811, Congregationalist (Amherst)
Rev. Daniel Prescott Pike, 1815, "Christian" denomination
* Rev. Joseph Osgood, 1815, Unitarian
* Rev. George Osgood, 1817, Unitarian
Rev. Jonathan Brown, 1818, Baptist
Rev. Charles Edwin Blake, 1818, Free-Will Baptist
Rev. Henry Eldridge, Congregationalist (Amherst)
Rev. Ezra Bailey Chase, 1847, Congregationalist (Marietta)
Rev. Roland Douglas Sawyer, 1874, Congregationalist (Boston University)

(b)
Physicians

Dr. Benjamin Rowe, 1719
Dr. Benjamin Rowe, Jr., 1750
Dr. Daniel Fogg, 1759
Dr. John Fogg, 1764
Dr. Jabez Dow, 1776
Dr. John Dow, 1796
Dr. Jonathan Brown, 1805
Dr. Henry Tuck, 1808
Dr. Moses Brown, 1818
* Dr. William Osgood, 1823
Dr. Jeremiah Dow, 1825
Dr. John Angell Blodgett, 1855

(c)

Lawyers

Abraham Hilliard, 1778 (Dartmouth)
* Jeremiah Parsons Fogg, 1788
Ebenezer Franklin Tuck, 1822 (Dartmouth)
* Wesley Stephen Sawyer, 1880
Stewart Everett Rowe, 1881 (Boston University)

In Political Affairs Outside the Town

Jeremiah Dearborn, Exeter Postmaster, etc.
Hon. Newell Blake, Mayor of Bangor and State Senate
Hon. Samuel D. Leavitt, Mayor of Eastport
Hon. Frederick Eldridge, Supt. Education, etc., Washington State
Hon. Stewart E. Rowe, County Treasurer, County Solicitor, Mayor of Portsmouth
Edward K. Sweeney, Exeter Postmaster
Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, member of Massachusetts Constitutional Convention, 1917-1918, and member of Mass. Legislature 27 years, and candidate for Governor

MEN AND WOMEN SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS

With date of birth

Ebenezer Clifford, 1746
John Shaw, 1751
Nathaniel Healey, 1777
Richard Dow, 1783
Hannah Page, 1797
Sewell Felch, 1797
Charles Morgan, 1799
Oliver Locke, 1800
John D. Locke, 1809
Newell Blake, 1810
Josiah Blake, 1813
Joseph Chase Hilliard, 1821
Lorenzo G. Prescott, 1821
George E. Dearborn, 1825
Edward Prentiss Tuck, 1825
Henry Dow, 1826
Capt. Elijah Shaw, 1826
N. Jackson Shaw, 1834
Rufus Everett Hilliard, 1843
Frank Hilliard, 1850
George W. Hilliard, 1854
Henry S. Rowe, 1859
John P. M. Green
George W. Green
Albert Blaisdell
Ira Newell Blake

IN THE MORE RECENT PERIOD

John Smith
G. Herbert Walton
Will Bartlett
Perley C. Blake
Willard Emery Blake
Henry Dow
George A. Prescott
Frank E. Austin
Edmond P. Blake
Jasper Blake
Howard L. Lamprey
Milan E. Beckman

John Dow
Hiram Prescott
Willie S. Day
Daniel I. York
Henry Tilton
George B. Shaw

KENSINGTON EMINENT SCHOOL TEACHERS

Ezekiel Dow
Dr. Benjamin Rowe, Sr.
Ebenezer Potter
Jonathan Cooper Hill
Nathan Dow
Elizabeth S. Titcomb
William Hilliard
Joseph Chase Hilliard (died 1853)
Rosa A. (Brown) Akerman
Sarah Abby Green
Fred O. Kimball
Emma S. Tilton

WRITERS (Those starred have published books)

Rev. Jeremiah Fogg
Rev. Napthalie Shaw
Major Jere Fogg
* Harriet Livermore
* Dr. Jonathan Brown
* Rev. Elijah Shaw
Simon Rowe
Edward P. Tuck
Asa Warren Brown
Weare N. Shaw
Rev. George Osgood
George Osgood, second
Rosa Brown Akerman
Ida M. Mace
Mary Emma Chase
* Rev. Roland D. Sawyer

The Old Stage of 1860 — Hi Towne, Driver, backed up to the old Blake Shop and Post Office

CHAPTER 22

ADDITIONAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS, 1946

Three years have passed since pages 1-288 were printed. In that time I have found several additional data on matter therein recorded, and I have detected some errors that escaped me in the proof-reading of those pages.

I here note five pages of such additions and corrections.

The most important new item is some additional Soldiers in the Revolution. All save four of these have come to me from Mrs. Elizabeth K. Folsom of Exeter, who has been 32 years chairman of the state D. A. R. committee locating the graves of Revolutionary soldiers.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS IN ADDITION TO pages 194-202

John Bachelder
Elisha Blake, Jr.
Paul Blake
Philemon Blake, Jr.
Joseph Brown
Levi Brown
Thomas Brown
Cpl. Jeremiah Dearborn
Sgt. Ebenezer Dow
Richard Dow
Benjamin Eastman
Sgt. Jeremiah Fellows
Cpl. Isaac Fellows
Abraham Gove
Ebenezer Gove, Jr.
David James
Samuel Lamprey
Simon Page
Stephen Page
Philbrook Palmer
Joseph Prescott
Odlin Prescott
Dr. Benj. Rowe, Sr.
Joseph Rowe
Jonathan Rowe
Daniel Sanborn
James Sanborn
Richard Sanborn, Jr.
Jonathan Sanborn
Theophilus Sanborn
Reuben Sanborn
Lt. Elijah Shaw
Jonathan Hilliard Shaw
John Shaw
Samuel Smith of Exeter
Elijah Tilton
* Bradstreet Taylor
(Killed at Saratoga)
Joseph Wadleigh

Names here 38; names in pages 194-202, 130; total 168. Levi Blake seems to have been lost at sea, Bradstreet Taylor as above, making seven deaths, and John Ward was never well from wounds and died 1787; he was a twin brother of Melcher Ward, named on page 195 as Melzar. On the same page Martin Prescott should be Marston Prescott.

Page 201, Jude Hall is buried in Exeter (Winter Hill graveyard, not Kensington. James Noyes Peveare who lived here after War was in the army.

SIGNERS OF THE ASSOCIATION TEST

March 14, 1776 the Association Test was ordered to counteract the timid who were afraid to support the Revolution, for fear it might not win and their property would be taken by the British crown.

One hundred eighteen signed, many being already in the army; 15 were excused as Quakers; and only 5 non-Quakers refused to sign; of them the record contemptuously says, "They were not Quakers, call them what you will."

The list is printed in Vol. 30, New Hampshire State Papers.

Jonathan Pirkins
Odlin Prescott
Aaron Page
Richard Sandboun
Peter Hodgdon
Israel James
Eben Clifford
Joseph Hilliard
Edward Melcher
Benjamin Rowe, Jr.
Elijah Tilton
Philemon Blake, Jr.
Samuel Prescutt
Jeremiah Fellows
James Fogg
Benjamin Moulton
David James
David Page
Joseph Fogg
Jeremiah Fogg
David Smith
Joseph Wadleigh
Jona Prescott
John Lane
Jeremiah Bachelder
Theophilus Sanborn
Benjamin James
Sherburne Tilton
Benjamin Melcher
Moses Sanborn
Jo. Chase Hilliard
Joseph Bachelder
Philemon Blacke
Stephen Page
Simon Page
Jonathan Flanders

Benja. Brown
Robert Pike
Joseph Brown Jr.
Enoch Worthen
Jabez Dow
Stephen Brown Jr.
Joseph Clifford
John Graves
Samuel Dearbon
Jona Brown
Henery Lampre
Nathel Dow
Moses Shaw
David Shaw
Joseph Rowe
Benja. Prescott
Simon Prescutt
Moses Blake
Israel Hodgdon
X his mark
Caleb Shaw
Eben Potter
Benjamin Rowe
John Melcher
Winthrop Rowe
Joseph Tilton
Samuel Tucke
Jonathan Rowe
David Stuard
Jeremiah Fellows Jr.
John Bachelder
John Page
John Page Jr.
William Fogg
Jesse Tucke
Abraham Sambun

Nathll Healey
Paul Blacke
Henry Sanbun
Abraham Prescutt
James Sanborn
John Tilton
Benjamin Tilton
James Sanborn
William Brown
Benjamin James Jr.
Joseph Wodleigh 3
Timothy Blake Lock
Joseph Dow
Philbrick Palmer
Nathan Dearbon
David Brown
Benjamin Eastman
Ezekiel Worthen
Nathaniel Weare
Nathan Dow
Joseph Brown
Samuel Clifford
Jonathan Palmer
Samuel Lampery
Josiah Dow
Jonathan Dow
Jonathan Ward
Moses Shaw Jr.
Joseph Shaw
John James
Marston Prescott
Elihu Shaw
Hezekiah Blake
Benjamin Dow
Elisha Blake Juner
Ephraim Easman

Stephen Brown	Nathan Shaw	Ebenezer Loveren
Abraham Gove	Elisha Blake	Nathaniel Ward
Josiah Barchelder	Jeremiah Dearbon	Nathaniel Gove
Edward Lock	Josiah Brown	Isaac Fellows

Nathaniel Gove, Josiah Bachelder, Isaac Fellows
Selectmen of Kensington

EXCUSED AS QUAKERS

Theophilus Page	John Chase	Obadiah Gove
George Connor	Jonathan Green	Jonathan Purington
Nathaniel Chase	Stephen Green	Elihu Chase, Jr.
Obadiah Johnson	Nathan Page	Stephen Chase
Elihu Chase	Nathan Chase	John Green

THE FIVE NON-QUAKERS

Joseph Wadleigh, Jr.	Stephen Fogg	Jonathan Tilton
Jeremiah Tilton	Caleb Brown	

CAPT. WORTHEN'S CHAIR

Capt. Ezekiel Worthen, who took part in the Revolution and had such important part in the Indian War and Louisberg, had 3 sons in the Army, Jacob, born 1735; Lieut. Ezekiel, born 1746; Enoch, born 1750. His son Samuel, born 1748, signed the Test.

In 1781 the old Capt. was stiff with rheumatism, hobbled about with his cane, and found much ease in a large chair. When he heard Cornwallis had surrendered the old man threw his cane into the air and let out a hair-raising shout.

Miss Josephine Dow of Exeter is the proud possessor of the chair.

OUR MEN AT SARATOGA

The battle of Saratoga was in the Revolution what Gettysburg was in the Civil War, the turning point. It spurred Congress to pass the articles of Confederation.

Kensington men took active part in the Victory, and there were killed the two Smiths, Orson Locke and Brad Taylor; and John Ward seriously wounded and Thomas Creighton taken prisoner.

TOWN OFFICIALS SINCE Pages 139-149

Town Clerk, 1943, Mrs. Martha L. Evans
1944, Harold E. Dickinson
1945, Mrs. Martha L. Evans
1946, Mrs. Martha L. Evans
Moderator, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, John W. York

SELECTMEN

1943, John W. York, Otis H. Eastman, George I. Armstrong
1944, Otis H. Eastman, George I. Armstrong, Hiram E. Prescott
1945, George I. Armstrong, Hiram E. Prescott, Harry B. Greenwood
1946, Harry B. Greenwood, Hiram E. Prescott, Leonard B. Miller

MAJOR TOWN CELEBRATIONS OF PAST 70 YEARS

1883 — Re-Dedication of Town Hall, when first addition completed
1892 — Oct. 21, Columbus Day
1893 — Loan Exhibit
1899 — Old Home Day
1900 — Old Home Day
1909 — 50th Anniversary of Congregational Church
1937 — Town 200 Years Old
1940 — Universalist Church Building 100 Years Old
1942 — Brick School House 100 Years Old
1943 — East and West School House 70 Years old — owing to War Time conditions, no celebration

BASEBALL IN KENSINGTON

Before 1885 the ball game in Kensington was "Three-Old-Cat". In the spring term of 1885, the North Road school, having learned the game by watching the Exeter Academy, they organized a team. I introduced it at the East school in 1886.

In 1887 various scrub games were played, then in 1888 the South Road had a team called the "White Caps", North Road had a team, and we had a team of smaller boys at the East school. The North Road beat the White Caps, and the East school as well.

Bigger boys had left North Road in 1889, and the East school team was supreme.

In 1890-1892, this team was enlarged in summer by "boarders", was called the "Devil's Den Club", and played with Amesbury, Seabrook, South Hampton, etc.

Another team was formed around 1898, largely by Drinkwater boys. Around 1930 another team played some games, and another team played a few years later, and this year there is another team playing some games.

The North Road team of 1885-1888 was made up of Wendell Hilliard, Walter Hilliard, Herbert Prescott, Fred and Perley Rollins, Arthur Fields, Johnnie Troy, Frank York, Ed Kimball.

The East School team was made up thus, Milan and George Beckman, Roland Sawyer, New Brown, George Eastman, Willie Gaddis, Ralph Gove, Howard Lamprey, and a picked-up boy.

The Devil's Den team was made up of Wendell Hilliard, Milan Beckman, Roland Sawyer, George Eastman, Ned Brown, Walt Sands of Amesbury, and three summer boarders, Bert Mason, Ted Howe, Will Paige.

The " Drinkwater team " had as players, Stewart Rowe, Ross Prescott, John Malloy, Forest Dow, Avard Milbury, Otis Eastman, Everett Mace, George Brewster, Melvin Armstrong, Arthur and Ray Wadleigh, Ralph Gove and Colie Cameron of Amesbury.

The " White Caps " had as players a group of young shoemakers, Frank and Charlie Austin, George, Mose, Angus and Albert Wilbur, John Ryan, Will Shufelt, Henry Wood.

Two young men of upper Stumpfield, Jasper Blake and Will Baston, played with East Kingston.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO TEXT, Pages 1-288

Page 35, following name of Jonathan Brown and wife, should appear the names of another young couple of the Brown family, viz. Thomas Brown (brother of Ebenezer and Josiah) and his wife, Mehitable Tole; they married Mar. 2, 1729.

Page 37, Reuben Smith married Joanna Morgan Feb. 2, 1728; and Joseph Rowe married Ruth Sherburn Feb. 1731; one record gives marriage of James Perkins and Shuah Nason as 1728.

Page 83, date of second addition to Town Hall was in 1893.

Page 94, Ernest Carter should be Eugene F. Carter.

Page 130, the vote on Lucinda Martin was in 1894; she died in 1895, age 84. Mrs. Rose of East Kingston has a painting of this quaint old character of my boyhood days.

Page 176, Rev. F. D. Eldredge should be Rev. E. D. Eldredge.

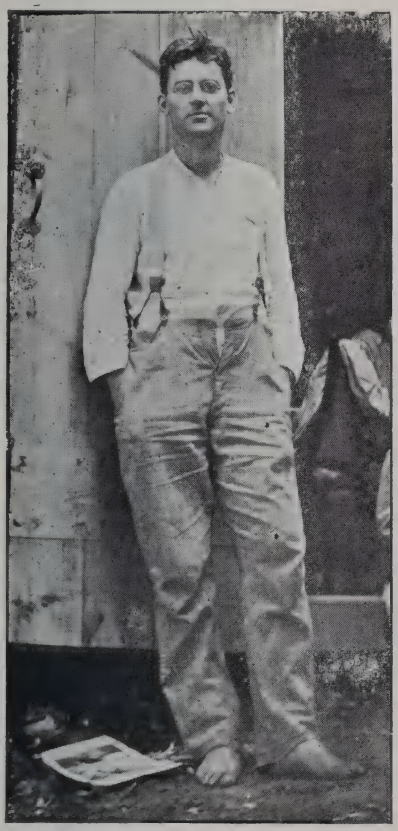
Page 202, should be " Jude's Pond ", not " Judd's Pond ".

Page 235, H. M. Prescott app. post-master in 1901.

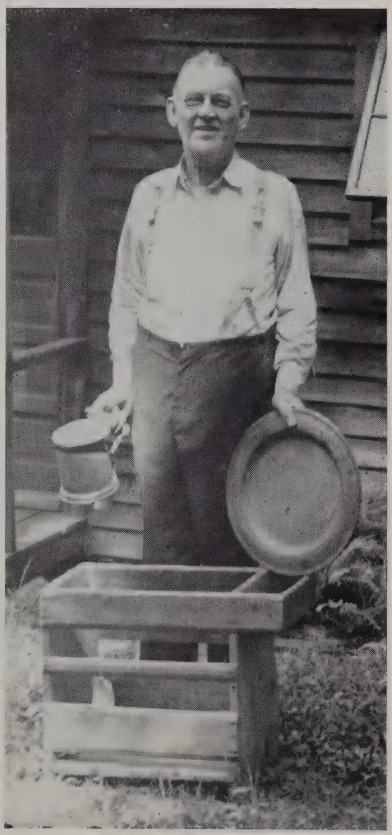
Page 268, dates of tragic deaths of Willie Spalding, John Blaisdell, Moses Brown, should be, Spalding 1867, Blaisdell Jan. 25, 1859, Brown 1883.

CHAPTER 23

THE AUTHOR'S OWN SECTION



R. D. S. — 1909



R. D. S. — 1945

In the first cut the writer stands before Thoreau Cabin, when just completed, August 1909.

In the second, he stands before Tolstoy House, 1945, with the following of his antiques:

The Dow Standing Stool, made in Hampton before 1700.

The Gov. Belcher-Dole-Palmer Tankard, made in England under William and Mary, 1689.

The Currier Platter, used in Amesbury by Deacon Thomas Currier and his wife, Mary Osgood; they married Dec. 9, 1668.

MOTHER EARTH CAMP, 1907

Aug. 7, 1907 the writer pitched these tents for himself, wife and five children. They slept in one tent, lived in the other, ate under the trees.

He kept a careful account and wrote for a Sunday paper " How a family of seven can have a five-week vacation for $40."

The beautiful Chestnuts, spared when he and his father cleared the pasture in 1889, were struck by the " Blight " in 1916, and cut down in 1922.

MY MOTHER

MY SISTER

My mother, Phoebe Maria, dau. of Col. John T. and Mary Elizabeth (Moulton) Blake, born June 17, 1847, died Sept. 8, 1921.

My sister, Mary Elizabeth Moulton Sawyer, born April 10, 1882; md. Edward S. Kingsbury of Amesbury, Nov. 2, 1913; died April 20, 1931.

Both attended R. F. S. in Exeter. Sister graduated in class of 1901.

TAPS

Fades the light
And afar
Goeth day
Cometh night;
And a star
Speedeth all,
Leadeth all
To their rest.

Love, good-night,
Must thou go
When the day
And the night
Leave me so?
Fare thee well:
Day is gone,
Night is on.

AUNT SARAH
Sarah Frances (Blake) Colby
July 31, 1843 — Sept. 14, 1931

AUNT MARY ESTHER
Mary Esther (Blake) Warner
Nov. 3, 1840 — June 12, 1912

Mother, who had been a teacher, read to me much from picture books, story and school books, between my fourth and seventh birthdays.

Aunt Sarah ransacked the old house for such for her to read, and also read to me, and taught me poetry.

When I had a heart break-down, October 1892, Aunt Mary Esther, then keeping the old Blake store and selling the Boston dailies, allowed me to read them all, and I got an active interest in public affairs. She was a member of the " Orthodox " church and gave me a bible.

I owe much to my good and loving aunts.

Nigh to a grave
that was newly made,
Leaned the sexton old
on his earth-worn spade,
His work was done
he paused to wait
For the funeral train
at the open gate —
These words they came
from his lips so thin,
I gather them in
I gather them in —
Gather them in
for their final rest,
And lay them down
in the earth's cold breast.

. . . . . .

Now the tale is ended
that the old man told,
And Death has taken
the sexton old.

My Father
THE OLD SEXTON

In the Lower yard, the Dearborn fence was put up in 1888; next summer my father, Geo. Brown and I, worked mowing bushes, righting the stones, etc.

The next year the town put into his hands the charge of the yard, which he held 44 years.

The famous Dr. Rowe stone (see page 288) was broken by frost, so that one side resembled an old English, be-wigged judge; this my father is holding.

The picture is not clear because then the yard was covered with the beautiful large pines.

My father was appointed in charge of the yard in 1890 and held the position to his death, Dec. 1934.

"THE CITY" (Looking down from "Newell's Hill")

No picture of my early youth is so firmly planted in my memory, as that of the thrill I used to get, when I had gone up thru Peveare Lane to the crest, a cleared spot in Newell Healey's pasture, and would lean on the little Civil War carbine, and look down on "The City".

The same spot was where we lads also played baseball on Sundays, for observation of the Sabbath was still Puritanic, and we had to get away if we would play Sundays.

A few years back I tried to tell in Whitmanic form what that view of "The City" meant to me: here it is: —

Here at the peak of Newell's Hill,
A picnic ground of older times,
A lad of twelve, I lean upon my gun
And look down upon "The City".

My vision takes in the homes, the store, the church,
The small and larger shoe shops, from whence come up
The tap, tap of the shoemaker's hammer.

I see the farmer with his oxen and plow,
Another with jogging horse making his way to the store,
I hear the farmer's call to his team, the barking of his dog,
I hear the piercing scream of the hawk over the "bishop" —
I am looking down upon the spot where my ancestors
Found fitting place for life's drama to unroll.
There they were born, grew, married, worked, died,
Then the neighbors followed their silent forms
To the graveyard, which I now look upon,
And where the mute stones stand sentinel thru the years.

Opposite where the Lane enters the Main Road
Is the little home that I have ever known,
In the fenced-yard I toddled as a child,
And a little later entered a world bounded
By the brook, the store, the meeting-house, the woods —
Now, a care-free lad, I wander the town with gun,
See the farmers as they work, call in the shops
Where the shoemakers ply their awl and thread;
I had known them all before as they came to the stores
To get mail, chat with gathered people, make a purchase,
I knew each farmer's horse, the merry rattle of his tires,
All a picture of life to the wide-wondering eyes of a boy.

* * * * *

Home of my sires and myself, dozing in peace and beauty,
How you appeal to me as a man, awake in me a love for you,
As I come back again, outliving all of former days,
And here tell the story of what life meant
For all of us who lived it here in the years now past.

MY SERMON TO THE PEOPLE OF KENSINGTON

The author of this History is a Preacher, the third Congregational Minister to go from our local church into the ministry. The others were Rev. Henry Eldridge and Rev. Ezra Chase. The three of us preached our first sermon from the Kensington Congregational Pulpit, mine being on Feb. 9, 1896, when Brother Fraser allowed me to make my initial attempt. There were 42 present, though the day was stormy.

As I have spent these many months practically living with the Kensington of the past, those whose lives come to me through the records, those whose lives come to me through early reports of the elders of my early days, those who I have known in the decades 1880-1900, I have been time and again filled with the wistful desire, that I might stand in the pulpit and talk face-to-face with all our people about the things of our Christian Faith.

And if such a chance could be mine, the sermon I would preach would be to Re-Affirm the Apostolic Proclamation made by Peter and Paul, which appears on the following pages. And which is my own solid conviction after 48 years of study and thought.

And the place I would select from which to face my Kensington congregation, would be of course, from the old high pulpit of our greater Colonial Meeting-House, which appears on page 6.

That stately edifice was patterned after the earlier Meeting-House at North Hampton, and the Rocky Hill Meeting-House was built following the design of ours.

Though the exterior of our Colonial Meeting-House and that which stands at Rocky Hill was different, because their position on the hillside was opposite, yet the interior was identical.

If you will go to the Rocky Hill Meeting-House, you will see that quaint sitting, where I would ask you in imagination to sit at this time, and hear me preach to you, the words you can read in the pages that follow. A sermon from a Kensington boy who became a Minister of the Gospel, to all the people of Kensington, who have lived here in all our past, who are living at present, who may live in the good old town in the years that shall come.

JESUS APPEARS TO PETER AND CLEOPHAS

The Risen Lord appeared Easter morning to Mary and other women, but a woman's word having no standing as a witness, the Apostolic preaching made the appearing to Peter in the afternoon, the great initial appearing, see I Cor. 15:5.

Peter's companion at the time was Cleophas, uncle of Jesus. The great event is told in Luke 24:13-35.

A Sermon

THE ORIGINAL APOSTOLIC PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD — AS PREACHED BY THE APOSTLES, PETER AND PAUL

"This same Jesus, whom ye crucified, God hath made both Lord and Christ (Messiah)". **Acts 2:36** (Peter's Sermon at Pentecost)

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved". **Romans 10:9** (Paul's Letter to the Church at Rome)

The sermon has an honorable place in human history. Not alone was Christianity founded on the sermons of the Apostles, but from the days of the Hebrew Prophets down to the present generation, it has been the ever important living appeal of men of power who sensed God and had a message for their fellows.

In those far-off days of the past in Hebrew-Land, nothing survives in written record save the sermons of Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah

and Ezekiel. In those dark days of the long one thousand years of Europe, little survives save some of the sermons of the great preachers.

In our own Colonial Days, there was no event of such great importance as the visits here of Whitefield, Wesley, Berkley, Mother Ann Lee and humble Quaker preachers, who came here to break the Word of God, as new light was dawning upon it in the Old World. And no event, in the usual going-on of life counted more, than the weekly sermon of the dignified pastor, who each Sunday ascended the stairs to the elevated pulpit of the Colonial Meeting-House.

And when we had won our National Independence, where did we get greater intellectual aid than came again from the pulpit sermons of Rev. John Wise of Ipswich, Rev. John Murray, Rev. Hosea Ballou, Rev. William E. Channing, Rev. Horace Bushnell, Rev. Elias Smith, and the many able followers of these same greater preachers.

The sermon is a great thing in literature and life. It is a living message with AN APPEAL for bad men to become good and good men to become better. That is where it differs from the essay or address, it always ends with AN APPEAL. It is a message delivered for a great spiritual purpose, to lead men and women, lads and misses, boys and girls, to something better in their lives.

Every minister has some favorite sermons, those with which " he has a good time " every time he preaches them; sermons where he was happy in his thought, his selected illustrations, the points where he can show something of that mastery which comes with oratory. Recently a publishing house has published several volumes composed of one such sermon from each of several ministers with large churches. In the old days when ministers were candidating for a larger pulpit they always used such sermons.

The preaching of such sermons, or even the writing of them, is really an exploitation of pride in the preacher. My mood here is far too serious to select a sermon along that line. The thing I want to emphasize is what I consider the most important sermon I, or any preacher, could preach. And the answer to such is not hard to find, it is, of course, a sermon that repeats the message of Peter and Paul, the great founders of Christian Faith.

The Book of Acts, the only history we have of the early days of Christianity, contains several sermons by Peter and several by Paul. Thus it is not hard to get the initial and all important message upon which they both preached. This is the more so because these sermons are all on the same great theme.

In the case of Paul we have several Letters that he wrote exactly as

they came from his hand. Those Letters and the Dialogues of Plato are the most valuable literary works that come down to us from the remote past. In them we can get exactly as Paul wrote it, the thought that he had in his mind when he wrote or preached.

So while my text is taken from the report of the Sermon of Peter, in the case of Paul I take it from his Letter to the Church at Rome, but they agree entirely in their Apostolic Message, which was an appeal to the listener to do TWO THINGS:

1 — Accept Jesus of Galilee as Lord;

2 — Believe their testimony that they had seen and talked with Jesus, risen from the dead.

The six sermons of Peter reported in the Book of Acts all close with this appeal. Thirty times in his Letters does Paul refer to the Resurrection of Jesus. They both understood their work as Apostles was to testify to the fact that Jesus had appeared to them from the grave.

Peter in all his sermons save one, was preaching to congregations where most of his hearers were Jews, but in the sermon at the home of Cornelius, he was preaching to a group mostly or entirely of Gentiles. The report of that sermon, Acts 10:34-48, is one of the most thrilling reports of an historic event that can be found. Probably the reporter was Mark, author of the Gospel, and as Mark wrote, probably for the same group (the year was 43, 10 years after the Crucifixion of Jesus), it is interesting to note that verses 37-42, are an outline of just what Mark later wrote in his Gospel.

The message in this report is the message of the report of the First Sermon, ten years earlier in Jerusalem, it reads:

> " Jesus Christ, who of all us is the Lord. . . Jesus of Nazareth, whom God annointed with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good, healing the sick, for God was with him, he whom they slew. . . Him God raised from the dead the third day, and allowed him to manifest himself, not to all, but us, chosen to be witnesses, and who were commanded to preach and testify, that every one believing in him may receive forgiveness of their sins."

Paul in sermon and Letter, over and over proclaims the same truth, to quote a few of the passages — " We preach not ourselves but Jesus as Lord " ; " That every tongue be brought to confess that Jesus is Lord " ; " No man can call Jesus Lord, save by the Holy Spirit ".

When Jesus were living, his followers, all Jews, came to see that he was the God-Sent Messiah to the Jewish people, for whom they had waited and prayed for so long. After the Resurrection, and when they

proclaimed their message to Gentile as well as Jew, the word " Messiah " did not mean much to the Gentile, so as they said, BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, GOD HAD MADE HIM BOTH MESSIAH AND LORD.

The primitive credo of Christianity was " JESUS IS LORD ".

We have early pagan testimony to this in the letter of Pliny to the Roman emperor Trajan, written 105 A. D., where Pliny describes the peculiar habits of the " Christians ", where he said, " They sing hymns, make their vows, and pray to Christ as a god ". Jesus with them, as Pliny observed, was one endowed with divinity.

Before this Resurrection Jesus was " teacher ", " prophet ", " Messiah ", but after that great event he was " LORD ", thus —

JESUS OF GALILEE WAS MADE LORD BY HIS RESURRECTION

This shows how closely linked together in the joint message of Peter and Paul that I have taken as a text, are the proclamations that he was DIVINE and that he had RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

The two facts go together. The evidence that Jesus was more than normal men is found in that he appeared to his followers after the event of death, convinced them he was the same person they had known, that he was still alive, and still intent that their work together, interrupted by his death, should go on.

Paul wrote to the Church of Corinth, that whether he or other Apostles preached, their message was the same, " Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture, ROSE THE THIRD DAY AND APPEARED, first to Peter, then to the Twelve, then to 500 at once, then to James, then to all the Apostles, and last of all to me also . . . . so we preach and so we believe, and if Christ arose not, then is our Faith void and empty."

Thus the Apostles recognized that

THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION IS THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH.

There is not a single scholar of the problem of the origin of Christianity but affirms the same thing. And the thinker who is outside the Christian ranks understands this, for when some months ago a clergyman talked with C. E. N. Joad, the English philosopher, and lamented the decline in Christian faith, Joad said to him, " Establish the Resurrection of Jesus and you will rehabilitate Christian Faith."

HENCE IT IS IMPORTANT TO INQUIRE, WHAT IS THE HISTORIC EVIDENCE FOR THE APPEARINGS OF JESUS AFTER HIS DEATH?

So long as The Resurrection of Jesus was a dogma of the Church, and was accepted because of the dogmatic statement of the Church, it was not ever doubted. The arguments of Thomas Aquinas in 1270 A. D. stood universally unchallenged. When the entire structure of the Dogmatic Theology of the Church was questioned, this fact of the Resurrection was likewise questioned, and then it became necessary for us to ask for the HISTORIC EVIDENCE, rather than for the DOGMA of the Church.

Thomas Woolston in 1727, an English Deist, was the first to write a book rejecting the Resurrection as historic fact. Then came the denials of the French Sceptics like Voltaire. Then came the German Rationalists, the first of all being Hermann Reimarus in 1758.

Now all these books can be had and read today, as can be the entire Library of several hundred books that have argued the question.

In 1924 I took up the study of the matter, and I did not end my study till I left Boston in 1940. Sixteen years when I spent the most of my winter leisure time studying these books in the excellent libraries of greater Boston, and beside which I made two trips to New York and Washington to find books not available in Boston. Then I searched through the files of the scholarly reviews for the past 70 years. Of the careful and thorough nature of my study there can be no question.

At the same time I was doing this work I was serving on 36 Investigating committees in the legislature, where we searched to weigh carefully all kinds of evidence. Also I was serving ten years on the Rules Committee which carefully weighs hundreds of matters. Besides this I was serving regular legislative committees and taking my part on the floor in study and discussion.

And one thing more, during these years I was each summer writing history, local history of Kensington, of families, of ancestors, etc., where my material was almost the same type of fragmentary material and tradition which one must study in the problem of the historic evidence of the Resurrection, or of any of the events that occur in New Testament history.

In the process of my studies, I came to see, that because of my work in the legislature, coming to know the value of evidence, and because of my work as a local historian, coming to know the value of tradition and incidental references, etc., that I was mentally equipped to arrive at a more sane conclusion than Woolston, Reimarus, Paulson, Strauss, Renan,

and any other of the lesser known critics of the historic evidence of the appearings of Jesus to his followers, after his death.

Those men spent their lives in the class room, they weighed evidence by theory, they did not know that life is larger than logic, and makes many turns that the closet-scholar will never observe.

I felt much less conceited to hold this theory of my superior equipment by way of experience, after I saw that Eduard Meyer, the great German professor of the history of antiquity in pagan circles, bluntly criticised the methods of the critics of history in Christian circles, and said that if the same methods were pursued in pagan history, no history at all could be written.

Thus I have come to hold my own opinions with increasing confidence, and my opinions are, that the historic fact of Jesus making appearings to his followers after his death, is as firmly established as is the fact that Socrates drank the hemlock.

A disheartened group of followers who fled in dismay came back in 50 days to testify boldly in Jerusalem that Jesus slain was alive and had appeared to them. Their attitude of fear and frustration was changed to an attitude of greatest enthusiasm and heroic zeal. They went forth and preached and worked. They built great institutions of religion; a new faith, a new holy day (Sunday); new ceremonies and ideas. All of this required some event of tremendous influence, just such an event as the appearings of the Risen Jesus.

It is an historic fact that Apostolic group believed in the Resurrection and preached it with such fervor that others believed them, that is the real reason we believe it today. Disagreement in detail in the written accounts can not touch this evidence. The fact was believed before any records were written.

For some years in Boston I was in contact with workers in the Society of Psychic Research. Through them I was enabled to attend sittings with spiritualistic mediums. I one night bound hand and foot, blindfolded and gagged the celebrated Margery. I spent several hours with Samuel Foss of Concord, Mass. and had sittings with others. With Foss things occurred that I can not explain. I have read the books of Sir Oliver Lodge, Hyslop, Myers et al. My friend Rufus Weeks of Tarrytown spent an evening telling me of his experiences with mediums and of his several talks with Edmond Kelly, after the latter died. Talks in which Kelly showed the same acute intelligence he did while alive.

I am not sure what all these add to, but they do make the fact of the appearings of Jesus after his death very easy to believe. If lesser mortals can get some results what might we not expect from Jesus.

All the reports as to the appearings of Jesus are of his coming in a mysterious manner, coming suddenly, disappearing suddenly, save in three short episodes, Luke 24:41-43 and John 20:2-10 and 20:26-27.

We must remember that the Gospels that come to us are probably the text circulated during the reign of Trajan, 98-117 A. D., when Eusebius tells us dissemination of the written Gospel became an active part of the work of the Christians. This was the time when to combat Docetic heresy and emphasis had switched to the " open grave " and the faith in a " physical resurrection " and it would have been easy for this later tradition to have found its way into the records.

Paul was not too emphatic when he said, " If there be no Resurrection of Christ, then our faith is empty and void, the Apostolic witness is a delusion, no friends await us beyond the grave, Christian Faith is no longer valid; but Paul answers his own question with his triumphant answer, " Christ IS risen, death has no victory, the grave has no sting."

SALVATION IS THE FRUIT OF FAITH

Both Peter and Paul state the result of FAITH in the Resurrection of Jesus and LOYALTY to him as Lord, is SALVATION. What do they mean?

What they mean by " Salvation " is what Jesus meant by " Entering the Kingdom ", we place ourselves under the sovereignty of God. God's rule become supreme. We find the beauty of love, kindness, gentleness, fellowship with God, and we see clearly the ugliness of hate, envy, lawless living, separation from God.

To be " SAVED ", in the mind of Peter and Paul, was to enter the Kingdom of God as Jesus preached it, that is to set up in our minds and lives, the RULE OF GOD, MAKE GOD OUR SOVEREIGN.

" BELIEVE IN THY HEART "

Thus writes Paul and by it he means not merely the intellectual nod of assent, but actual, sincere conviction. Can you not imagine what would happen with us, if we believed Jesus lived after death and instructed his disciples to preach, with the same conviction that we possess of the fact that our mothers loved us.

Of course if we had such conviction we would be " saved "; life would lose all its petty, mean side, and we would become missionaries of Christian Faith, ready to serve, willing to suffer, even martyrdom.

That was the actual result in the lives of the first generations of Christians — the same result would follow with us, IF we had that same strength of conviction of the TRUTH of the Resurrection of Jesus.

" If thou confess with thy mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

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